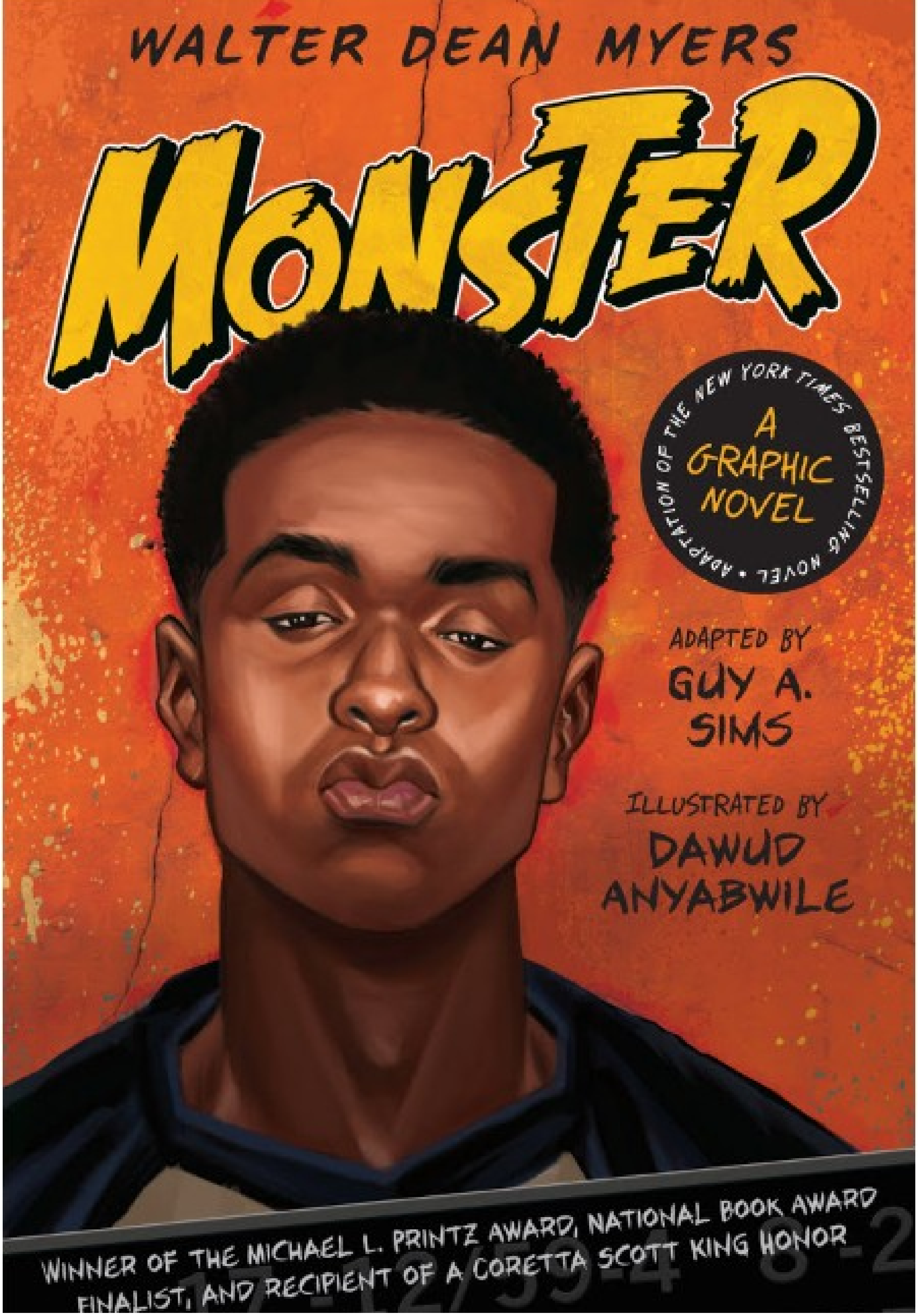
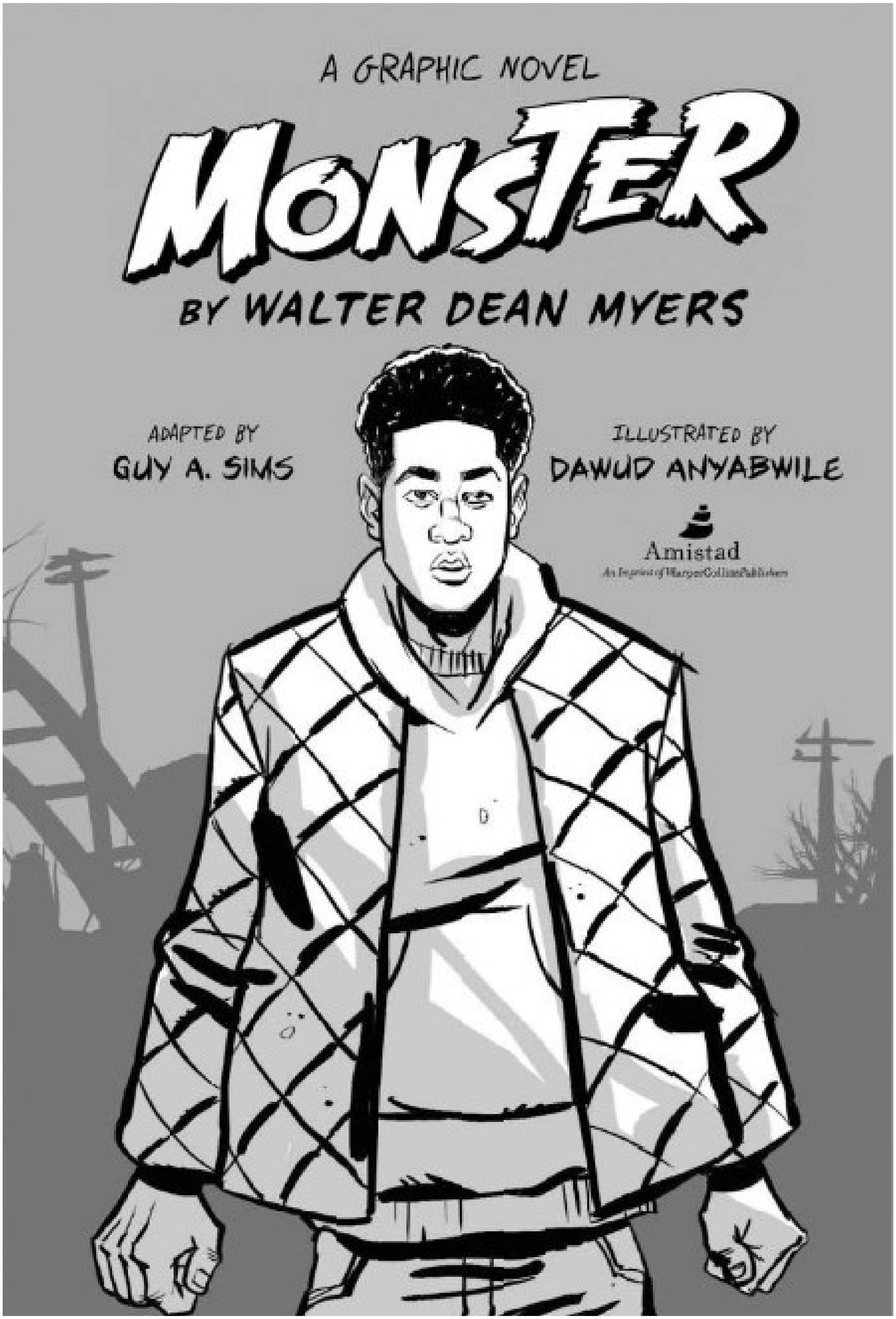

WALTER DEAN MYERS
MONSTER
ADAPTATION OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING NOVEL •
A GRAPHIC NOVEL
ADAPTED BY
GUY A. SIMS
ILLUSTRATED BY
DAWUD ANYABWILE
WINNER OF THE MICHAEL L. PRINTZ AWARD, NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST, AND RECIPIENT OF A CORETTA SCOTT KING HONOR


A GRAPHIC NOVEL
MONSTER
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Amistad
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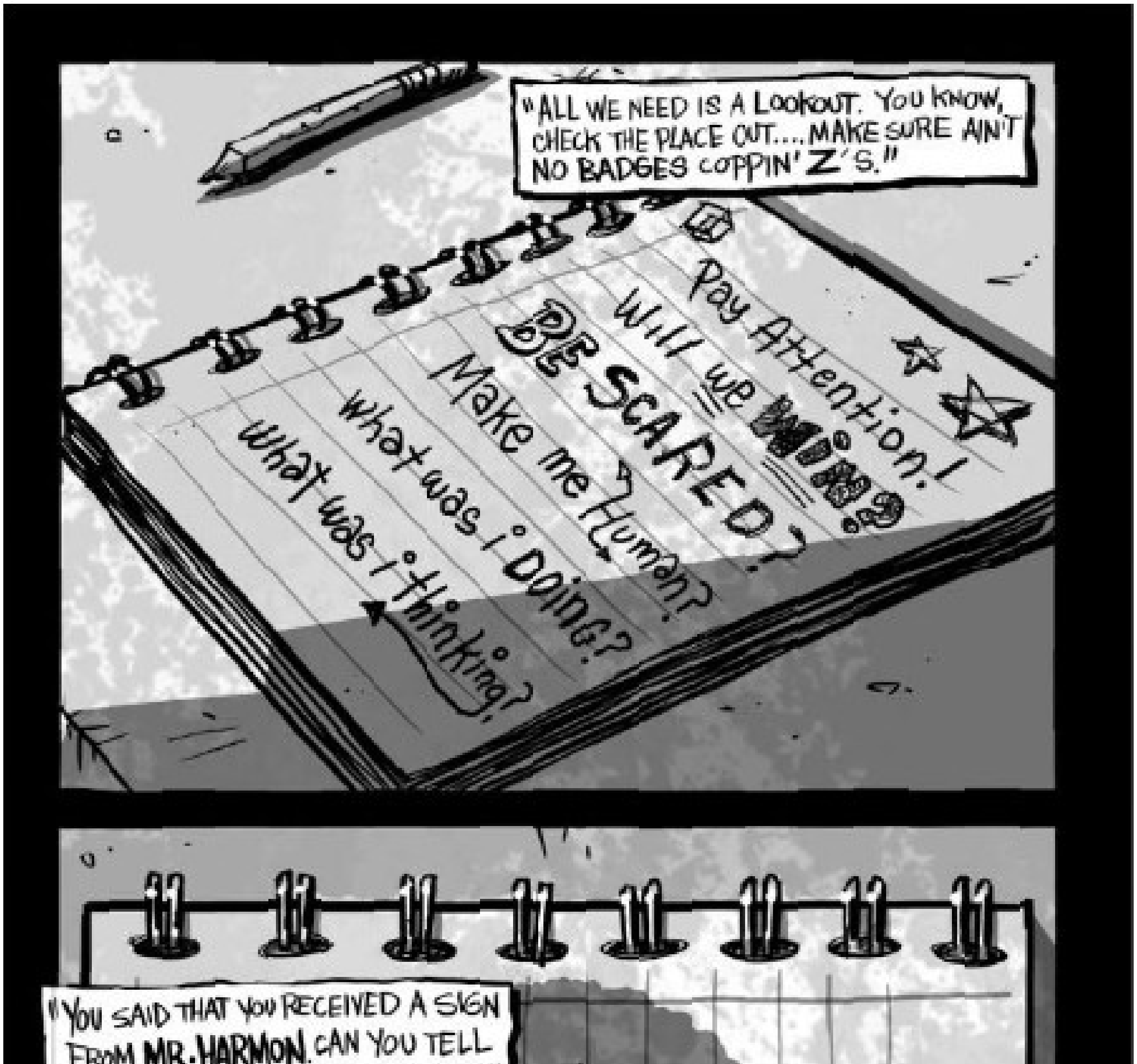
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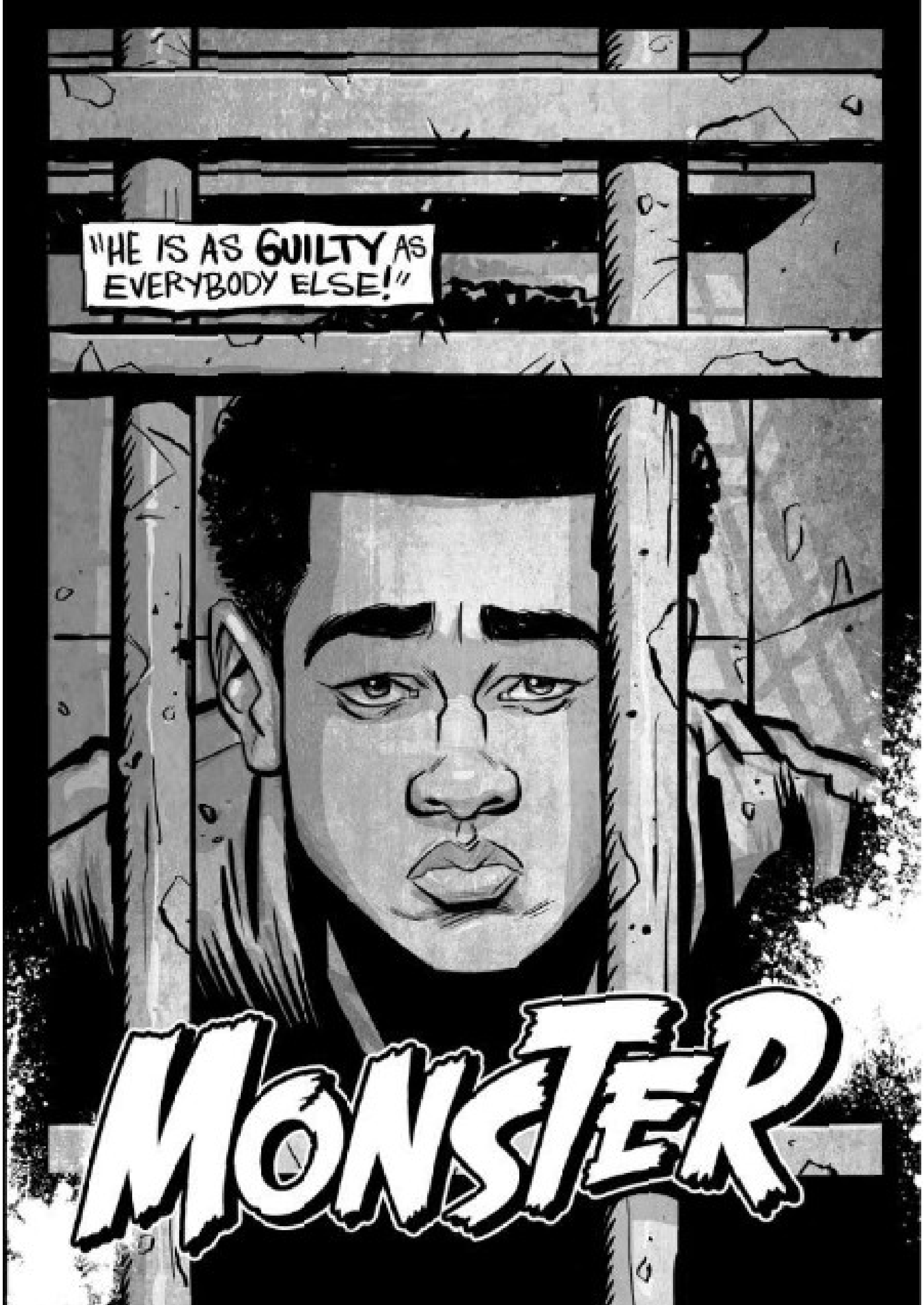
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FIRST EDITION


MOST PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY ARE DECENT, HARDWORKING CITIZENS WHO PURSUE THEIR OWN INTERESTS LEGALLY AND WITHOUT INFRINGING ON THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS..
...BUT THERE ARE ALSO MONSTERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES... PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO STEAL AND TO KILL..., PEOPLE WHO DISREGARD THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS...


"ALL WE NEED IS A LOOKOUT. YOU KNOW, CHECK THE PLACE OUT.... MAKE SURE AIN'T NO BADGES COPPIN' Z'S."
Pay Attention!
Will we
BE SCARED?
Make me Human?
what was i Doing?
what was i thinking?
"YOU SAID THAT YOU RECEIVED A SIGN FROM MR. HARMON. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT THAT SIGN WAS?"
Steve Harmon
Student
Son
Filmmaker


"HE IS AS GUILTY AS EVERYBODY ELSE!"
MONSTER



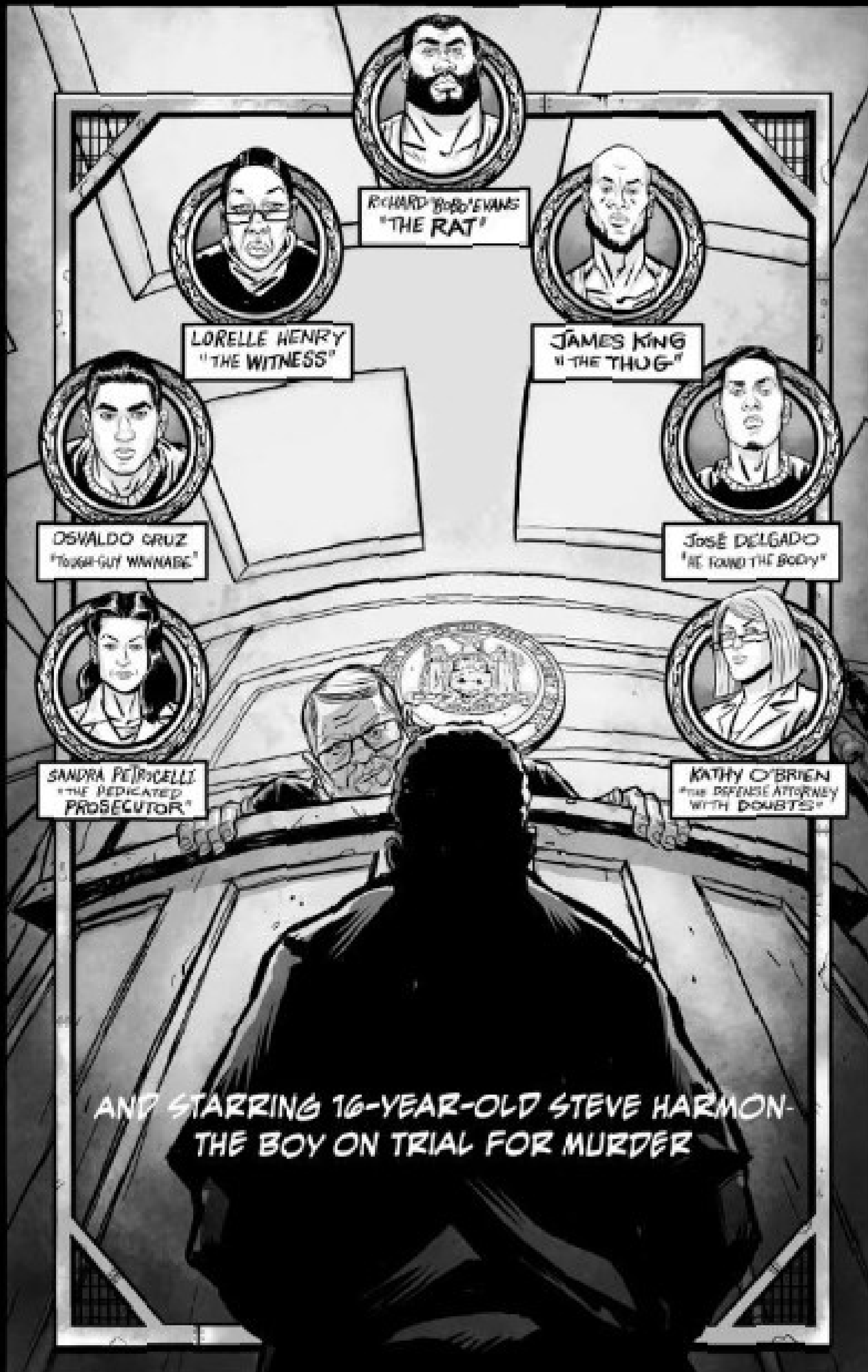
DID YOU HEAR ME?
"I SAID, DID YOU EAT BREAKFAST, LITTLE MAN?"
"SOME OF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A LONG DAY."


HERE'S HARMON, MA'AM.
TAKE A SEAT, STEVE.



YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING TODAY?
GOING TO COURT... MS. O'BRIEN...
...I GUESS.
PAY ATTENTION! LET ME MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON.
BOTH YOU AND THIS KING CHARACTER ARE ON TRIAL FOR FELONY MURDER.
FELONY MURDER IS AS SERIOUS AS IT GETS.
SANDRA PETROCELLI IS THE PROSECUTOR... AND SHE'S GOOD! THEY'RE PUSHING FOR LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE... WHICH IS REALLY BAD.
SO YOU BETTER TAKE THIS TRIAL VERY, VERY SERIOUSLY.
LISTEN TO ME! WHEN YOU'RE IN COURT, YOU SIT THERE. YOU DON'T TURN AND WAVE TO ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS. IT'S ALL RIGHT TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR MOTHER.
I HAVE TO GO AND TALK TO THE JUDGE. THE TRIAL BEGINS IN A FEW MINUTES. ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE WE START?
YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO WIN?
IT PROBABLY DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU MEAN BY "WIN."


"THE JUDGE IS GOING TO RULE ON A MOTION THAT KING'S LAWYER MADE TO SUPPRESS CRUZ'S TESTIMONY..."
"...MY JOB IS TO MAKE SURE THE LAW WORKS FOR YOU AS WELL AS AGAINST YOU."
"...AND TO MAKE YOU HUMAN IN THE EYES OF THE JURY."
"YOUR JOB IS TO HELP ME."
MAN, IT'S LIKE THESE KIDS NEVER LEARN.
LOOK, AFTER WE GET STARTED ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE, WRITE THEM DOWN AND I'LL TRY TO ANSWER THEM.
I'M GOING TO WRITE THIS WHOLE THING DOWN AS A MOVIE.
"WHATEVER... JUST PAY ATTENTION."


RICHARD "BOBO" EVANS
"THE RAT"
LORELLE HENRY
"THE WITNESS"
JAMES KING
"THE THUG"
OSVALDO CRUZ
"TOUGH-GUY WANNABE"
JOSÉ DELGADO
"HE FOUND THE BODY"
SANDRA PETROCELLI
"THE DEDICATED PROSECUTOR"
KATHY O'BRIEN
"THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY WITH DOUBTS"
AND STARRING 16-YEAR-OLD STEVE HARMON-
THE BOY ON TRIAL FOR MURDER


I HOPE THIS CASE LASTS 2 WEEKS. I SURE CAN USE THE MONEY.
SIX DAYS—MAYBE SEVEN. IT'S A MOTION CASE. THEY GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS... THEN THEY LOCK THEM UP.
YAWN.
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
I'M SCARED.
"IS EVERYBODY READY?"
ALL RIGHT. I'M RULING THE CRUZ KID'S TESTIMONY IS ADMISSIBLE. YOU CAN BRING UP YOUR MOTIONS RELATIVE TO THE RULING THIS AFTERNOON OR IF THERE IS A BREAK.
BRING IN THE JURY.


IN A JURIED COMPETITION, THE ENDING WOULD HAVE HURT THIS PIECE, BUT OTHERWISE IT WAS INTERESTING.
ANY COMMENTS?
GO AHEAD, STEVE.
I LIKED THE ENDING.
I DIDN'T SAY IT WAS BAD, BUT WASN'T IT PREDICTABLE?
YOU NEED TO PREDICT WITHOUT PREDICTING. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
WHEN YOU MAKE A GOOD FILM, YOU LEAVE AN IMPRESSION ON THE VIEWERS, WHO SERVE AS A KIND OF JURY FOR YOUR FILM.
"IF YOU MAKE YOUR FILM PREDICTABLE, THEY'LL MAKE UP THEIR MINDS ABOUT IT LONG BEFORE IT'S OVER."
"NOW, LET'S GET BACK TO YOUR FILM, STEVE."


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM SANDRA PETROCELLI, ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK...
...AND MY JOB IS TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE IN THIS MATTER.
GROCERY
YOU WERE INFORMED DURING JURY SELECTION THAT THIS IS A CASE OF FELONY MURDER.
A CITIZEN OF OUR CITY. A CITIZEN OF OUR STATE AND COUNTRY. HAS BEEN KILLED...
"...KILLED BY PEOPLE WHO ATTEMPTED TO ROB HIM."
CLOSED
PLEASE!
...IN THIS TRIAL, I WILL DO MY BEST TO BRING YOU THE FACTS OF THE CASE...
...AND I KNOW YOU WILL DO YOUR BEST TO JUDGE THE MERITS OF THE CASE.
MOST PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY ARE DECENT, HARDWORKING CITIZENS WHO PURSUE THEIR OWN INTERESTS LEGALLY AND WITHOUT INFRINGING ON THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS...
...BUT THERE ARE ALSO MONSTERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES...PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO STEAL AND KILL...
"...PEOPLE WHO DISREGARD THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS."



"ON THE 22ND OF DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR, AT APPROXIMATELY 4 PM, TWO MEN ENTERED A DRUGSTORE ON 145TH STREET IN HARLEM."
CLOSED
"ONE OF THOSE MEN WAS RICHARD 'BOBO' EVANS AND THE OTHER WAS JAMES KING."
OPE
"THE PURPOSE OF THE 2 MEN ENTERING THE STORE ON THAT MONDAY WAS VERY SIMPLE."
"THEY WERE GOING TO ROB THE OWNER, 55-YEAR-OLD ALGUINALDO NESBITT."
BANG!


THERE WAS A STRUGGLE, WHICH RESULTED IN THE GUN BEING DISCHARGED AND MR. NESBITT BEING KILLED.
MR. NESBITT HAD EVERY RIGHT TO DEFEND HIS PROPERTY...EVERY RIGHT NOT TO BE ROBBED.
WE ALL HAVE THAT RIGHT.
THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT PRIOR TO THE ROBBERY THERE WAS A PLAN OR CONSPIRACY TO ROB THE STORE.
WHILE MR. EVANS AND MR. KING WERE TO ENTER THE STORE AND DO THE ACTUAL ROBBERY...
...ANOTHER OF THE PLANNERS OF THIS CRIME WAS TO STAND OUTSIDE THE DRUGSTORE...
...AND IMPEDE ANYONE CHASING THE ROBBERS.
THIS CONSPIRATOR WAS TO GO INTO THE STORE PRIOR TO THE ROBBERY TO CHECK IT OUT...
...TO MAKE SURE THERE WERE NO POLICE IN THE STORE...
"...TO MAKE SURE THAT THE COAST WAS CLEAR!"
13



HEY... HEY.
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF IF WE'RE GOING TO CONVINCE A JURY THAT YOU'RE INNOCENT.
"INNOCENT!"
MURDER
INNOCENT
THE GUNSHOT WOUND WAS FATAL. THIS WAS NO SUICIDE....
...THIS DEATH WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE ROBBERY.
"THIS IS A CASE OF MURDER!"


THANK YOU, MS. PETROCELLI.
MS. O'BRIEN, YOU'RE UP.
THANK YOU. THE STATE SAYS THAT THE LAWS OF A SOCIETY PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR ITS CITIZENS...
...BUT THE LAWS ALSO PROTECT THE ACCUSED.
WE DON'T DRAG PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR BEDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND LYNCH THEM. WE DON'T TORTURE PEOPLE OR BEAT THEM.
WE KNOW YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.
"THE LAW THAT PROTECTS SOCIETY PROTECTS ALL OF SOCIETY."
WE WILL SHOW THAT THE EVIDENCE THE STATE WILL PRODUCE IS SERIOUSLY FLAWED AND THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR REASONABLE DOUBT.
"THE DOUBT THAT STEVE HARMON HAS COMMITTED ANY CRIME AT ALL."


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY. MY NAME IS ASA BRIGGS, AND I WILL BE DEFENDING MR. KING.
MS. PETROCELLI HAS PRESENTED THIS CASE IN VERY BROAD AND GRANDIOSE TERMS...
...BUT SOON YOU WILL SEE THAT HER KEY WITNESSES ARE AMONG THE MOST SELF-SERVING, HEARTLESS PEOPLE IMAGINABLE.
"YOU WILL HAVE THE UNPLEASANT TASK OF LISTENING TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES..."
"...WHO HAVE LIED AND STOLEN..."
"...AND IN AT LEAST ONE INSTANCE..."
"...IS AN ADMITTED ACCOMPLICE TO MURDER."
WHAT I AM ASKING YOU TO DO IS JUDGE WHAT THEY BRING UP ON THE WITNESS STAND...
...AND THEN DELIVER YOUR JUST VERDICT.


"CALL YOUR FIRST WITNESS, MS. PETROCELLI."
"THE STATE CALLS MR. JOSÉ DELGADO."
YEAH, I DO.
WHAT TIME DID YOU LEAVE THE DRUGSTORE?
I WORK AT THE STORE...UNTIL IT CLOSES AT 4. IN THE AFTERNOON I EITHER GO HOME OR GO OUT FOR CHINESE. WHEN I WENT OUT EVERYTHING WAS OK.
4:30... MAYBE 4:35 AT THE LATEST.
AND WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER ON YOUR RETURN?
"AT FIRST I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING... WHICH WAS WEIRD BECAUSE MR. NESBITT WOULDN'T LEAVE THE PLACE EMPTY."
"I WENT AROUND THE CORNER AND I SAW MR. NESBITT ON THE FLOOR... THERE WAS BLOOD EVERYWHERE...
"...AND THE CASH REGISTER WAS OPEN.... A LOT OF CIGARETTES WERE MISSING, TOO... MAYBE 5 CARTONS."
"DID YOU CALL THE POLICE?"
"YEAH... BUT I KNEW MR. NESBITT WAS DEAD."


"NOTHING FURTHER."
YOU STATE THAT 5 CARTONS OF CIGARETTES WERE MISSING?
THAT'S RIGHT.
5...NOT 6?
AFTERWARD...I CHECKED THE INVENTORY. IT WAS 5.
WHAT MEDICAL SCHOOL DID YOU ATTEND?
NONE.
BUT YOU SAID YOU KNEW THAT MR. NESBITT WAS DEAD. YOU WERE SURE OF IT?
I'M PRETTY SURE.
"SURE ENOUGH TO STOP AND DO INVENTORY BEFORE TRYING TO HELP YOUR BOSS?"
INVENTORY
I DIDN'T TAKE INVENTORY RIGHT AWAY...I JUST NOTICED. YOU WORK IN A STORE, YOU NOTICE IF SOMETHING IS MISSING.
"SO HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?"
NOT LONG.
"NOTHING FURTHER."
"CALL YOUR NEXT WITNESS, MS. PETROCELLI."


"THE STATE CALLS SALVATORE ZINZI".
I FIRST BECAME INVOLVED IN ALL THIS WHEN I WAS AT RIKERS ISLAND.
"WHY WERE YOU THERE?"
STOLEN PROPERTY. A GUY SOLD ME SOME BASEBALL CARDS.
THEY WERE STOLEN.
MR. ZINZI... WHILE AT RIKERS ISLAND, DID YOU ENGAGE IN A CONVERSATION WITH A WENDELL BOLDEN?
YES, MA'AM.
"HE SAID HE KNEW ABOUT A DRUGSTORE HOLDUP WHERE A GUY WAS KILLED..."
OH YEAH...THE REAL DEAL.
"...AND HE WAS THINKING OF TURNING THE GUY IN TO GET A BREAK."
"WHAT DID YOU DO AS A RESULT OF THE CONVERSATION?"
HEY, I'M GIVIN' YOU THE STRAIGHT DOPE.
"I CALLED DETECTIVE GLOCK AND TOLD HIM WHAT I KNEW."


BECAUSE YOU WANTED A BREAK, TOO.
IS THAT RIGHT?
YEAH.
WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE BOLDEN TOLD YOU?
THAT WAS IT.
DID HE TELL YOU ABOUT SOME CIGARETTES?
"YEAH... HE—"
OBJECTION! SHE'S LEADING!
WITHDRAWN. WHAT ELSE DID HE TELL YOU, MR. ZINZI?
"THAT HE GOT SOME CIGARETTES FROM THIS GUY, 2 CARTONS."
"DID HE TELL YOU THE NAME OF THE PERSON HE GOT THE CIGARETTES FROM?"
NO... JUST THAT HE WAS SURE THE GUY WAS INVOLVED IN THE HOLDUP.
"NOTHING FURTHER."


YOU WANTED A BREAK, MR. ZINZI. WHY DID YOU NEED A BREAK? YOU ONLY HAD A FEW MONTHS TO DO...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
SOME GUYS WERE...
SEXUALLY HARASSING ME, SIR.
"SEXUALLY HARASSING? WERE THEY CALLING YOU A SISSY? WHAT DOES 'SEXUALLY HARASS' MEAN TO YOU?"
"THEY WANTED TO HAVE SEX WITH ME."
SO TO SAVE YOURSELF FROM BEING GANG-RAPED.. IS THAT WHAT THEY WANTED TO DO TO YOU?
YEAH.
"YOU WERE AFRAID... AND YOU WOULD HAVE SAID JUST ABOUT ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF THAT SITUATION. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?"
I GUESS SO.


MR. ZINZI... WOULD YOU LIE?
NO.
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
YOU'D BUY SOME STOLEN GOODS FOR PROFIT... RAT ON SOMEBODY TO SAVE YOUR OWN HIDE... BUT YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO LIE?
"IS THAT RIGHT, MR. ZINZI?"
"I'M NOT LYING RIGHT NOW."
AS A MATTER OF FACT... THIS BOLDEN WAS GOING TO SEE WHAT HE COULD GET OUT OF THIS, BUT YOU STOLE HIS CHANCE... DIDN'T YOU?
I GUESS.
YOU GUESS.
"NO FURTHER QUESTIONS."


MR. ZINZI... HOW LONG WERE YOU IN JAIL?
"43 DAYS."
DO PEOPLE IN JAIL LOOK FOR STORIES TO REPORT TO THE POLICE?
OBJECTION!
THE QUESTION'S TOO VAGUE.
WELL, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY, MR. ZINZI.
THIS MR. BOLDEN WAS GOING TO USE THIS STORY FOR HIS OWN BENEFIT... IS THAT RIGHT?
AND YOU DECIDED TO USE IT FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT?


YOU USE STORIES... AND YOU USE PEOPLE, RIGHT?
AND THE OUTCOME OF YOUR TALKING WITH THE DETECTIVE IN QUESTION IS THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO REACH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND STRIKE A DEAL.. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
LOTS OF GUYS DO THAT IN JAIL.
YOU WERE ABLE TO STRIKE A DEAL THAT GOT YOU OUT OF JAIL EARLY.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
"YOU HAPPY WITH THE DEAL?"
YEAH.
"NOTHING FURTHER."
"YOURS, MS. PETROCELLI."
MR. ZINZI, DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE LYING AND WHEN YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH?
YEAH... SURE.
"YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH NOW?"
YEAH.
"NOTHING FURTHER."


YOU HANGING IN THERE STEVE? DON'T FADE ON ME.
YOU'RE ROCKING.
ROCKING..
ROCKIN'..
BING!
ROCK...
ROCK...
THEY SHOULD LET ME PITCH. I CAN THROW AS STRAIGHT AS ANYTHING.
AWW, MAN!
YOU CAN'T THROW!
WHIZZZ!
SMACK!!
WHAT THE HELL!?


WHICH ONE OF Y'ALL THREW THAT ROCK?
TONY! RUN!
WHERE YOU GOIN'?
KRACK!
C'MON...HE AIN'T WORTH IT.
DON'T BE HITTIN' MY WOMAN WITH NO ROCK.
YOU HANDLED IT, BABY.
UGH... MY JAW.


I DIDN'T THROW THAT ROCK... YOU THREW IT!
I DIDN'T SAY YOU THREW IT. I JUST SAID "RUN."
YOU SHOULD'VE RUN.
I'LL GET ME AN UZI AND BLOW HIS BRAINS OUT!
CUT!


ALL THEY TALK ABOUT IN HERE IS HURTING PEOPLE. IF YOU LOOK AT SOMEBODY, THEY SAY "WHAT YOU LOOKIN' AT ME FOR?"
"I'LL MESS YOU UP!"
IF YOU MAKE A NOISE THEY DON'T LIKE, THEY SAY THEY'LL MESS YOU UP!
ONE GUY HAS A KNIFE. IT'S NOT REALLY A KNIFE BUT A BLADE GLUED ONTO A TOOTHBRUSH HANDLE.
I HATE THIS PLACE. I HATE THIS PLACE.
I CAN'T WRITE IT ENOUGH TIMES TO MAKE IT LOOK THE WAY I FEEL.
I HATE, HATE, HATE THIS PLACE!!
BREAKS OVER... AAAAND ACTION!


"THE STATE CALLS MR. WENDELL BOLDEN."
MR. BOLDEN, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED?
YEAH. FOR B AND E...
AND FOR POSSESSION WITH INTENT.
POSSESSION IS OBVIOUSLY DRUGS AND THE INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE. CAN YOU TELL THE JURY WHAT B AND E MEANS?
"B AND E...BREAKING AND ENTERING."
"AND WHAT WERE YOU IN FOR WHEN YOU SPOKE TO MR. ZINZI?"
ASSAULT.



BUT THE CHARGES WERE DROPPED?
"YEAH, THEY WERE DROPPED."
CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN YOU AND MR ZINZI?
I GOT ME SOME CIGARETTES FROM A GUY WHO TOLD ME HE WAS IN ON A DRUGSTORE ROBBERY UP ON MALCOLM X BOULEVARD. I KNEW A DUDE GOT KILLED...
...AND I WAS THINKING OF TRADING WHAT I KNEW FOR SOME SLACK.
AS A MATTER OF FACT...DIDN'T MR. ZINZI ALSO TRY TO USE THAT INFORMATION FOR HIMSELF?
HE CALLED A DETECTIVE HE KNEW.
CAN YOU NAME THE PERSON INVOLVED IN THE ROBBERY?
OBJECTION! HE CAN TESTIFY TO THE CONVERSATION—NOT THE ROBBERY...
...UNLESS HE WAS THERE.
"WITHDRAWN... SO WHO GAVE YOU THE INFORMATION THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE ROBBERY?"
BOBO EVANS.


I NEED TO GET PAID, MAN. I AIN'T GOT NOTHING BETWEEN MY BUTT AND THE GROUND BUT A RAG.
KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN', LITTLE MAN?
I HEAR THAT.
YO, Y'ALL, YOU CAN'T HARDLY MAKE IT THESE DAYS.
THEY TALK ABOUT CUTTING WELFARE... CUTTING SOCIAL SECURITY... AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT MAKES LIFE A LITTLE EASIER.
THEY MIGHT AS WELL BRING BACK SLAVERY TIMES.
SLAVERY TIMES... YO... THAT'S REAL.
HERE... GET DOWN, LITTLE MAN.
NAW... I'M ALL RIGHT.


IF I HAD A CREW I COULD GET PAID.
ALL YOU NEED IS A CREW WITH SOME HEART AND A NOSE FOR THE CASH.
BANKS IS WHERE THE MONEY IS.
NAW. BANK MONEY IS TOO SERIOUS. YOU NEED TO FIND A GETOVER WHERE NOBODY DON'T CARE.
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
"YOU COP FROM SOMEBODY WITH A GREENCARD OR AN ILLEGAL, AND THEY DON'T EVEN REPORT IT."
RESTAURANT OWNERS GOT MONEY, TOO. THAT'S THE ONLY THING'S LEFT IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD...
RESTAURANTS, LIQUOR STORES, AND DRUGSTORES.
WHAT YOU GOT, YOUNGBLOOD?
I DON'T KNOW.
YO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
YOU STEVE?
SINCE WHEN YOU BEEN DOWN?


"SO HE TURNED ME ON TO TWO CARTONS FOR FIVE DOLLARS EACH. I ASKED HIM HOW HE COPPED AND HE SAID HE WAS IN A ROBBERY IN A DRUGSTORE."
"I DIDN'T SAY NO MORE BECAUSE ALL I WANTED WAS THE SMOKES."
DID MR. EVANS TELL YOU WHEN THE STORE WAS ROBBED?
HE SAID IT JUST WENT DOWN.
AND WHEN DID THIS CONVERSATION TAKE PLACE?
"THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS. I REMEMBER THAT BECAUSE I GAVE A CARTON OF CIGARETTES TO MY MOMS AS A PRESENT."
MENTHOLS... YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR MOMMA LIKES.
"NO FURTHER QUESTIONS. YOURS, MR. BRIGGS."
HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW MR. EVANS?
I KNOW HIM WHEN I SEE HIM.
"DID YOU KNOW HIM BEFORE CHRISTMAS?"
"I DON'T KNOW... NOT REALLY."


A
B
C
D
LET'S SEE, NOW...YOU DON'T KNOW THIS MAN AND YET WHEN YOU ASK HIM WHERE HE GOT THE CIGARETTES HE'S GOING TO TELL YOU THAT HE GOT THEM FROM A HOLDUP IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED AND IN WHCH A MAN WAS KILLED?
"IF HE WANTS TO RUN HIS MOUTH..."
"...THAT'S HIS BISINESS."


"YOU DIDN'T THINK IT STRANGE THAT A MAN WOULD GIVE OUT INFORMATION THAT COULD BE HARMFUL TO HIM IF HE HAD ACTUALLY BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CASE?"
"I DON'T EVEN CARE."
YOUR ASSAULT CHARGE WAS DROPPED... IS THAT CORRECT?
YEAH.
"THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR THE ASSAULT WAS HOW LONG?"
"DO YOU KNOW?"
I WASN'T CONVICTED.
DO YOU KNOW THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE?
OBJECTION!
OVERRULED... IT'S PERTINENT.
I JUST WANTED TO DO THE RIGHT THING...
...YOU KNOW...
LIKE A GOOD CITIZEN.
"SO YOU SAVED YOURSELF SOME HEAVY JAIL TIME BY POINTING A FINGER AT MR. KING..."
"...ISN'T THAT RIGHT?"



YOU WERE IN JAIL TRYING TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN?
OR WERE YOU REALLY JUST TRYING TO GET OUT OF JAIL AND NOT CARING WHO YOU PUT IN!
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'RE REALLY DOING? WELL...
ISN'T IT?
OBJECTION! DEFENSE COUNSEL IS STEPPING OVER HIS BOUNDS!
THIS IS A GOOD TIME FOR A BREAK. I HAVE SOME ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS TO GET DONE.
"LET'S ADJOURN UNTIL TOMORROW. WE'LL RECONVENE 9AM TOMORROW."
"...TOMORROW..."
"TOMORROW."



I TOLD YOU I WASN'T PLAYIN'!
(SMACK!!)
(NO, NO!)
STAY DOWN, SUCKA!
(ARRR!)
PLEASE STOP!
WE TOLD YOU YOU WAS GONNA GIVE IT UP!
I WANT TO GO HOME.


"GET UP, MAN."
YOU EVER WANT TO BE A SUPERHERO? YOU KNOW, SAVE PEOPLE AND STUFF?
SURE. YOU KNOW WHO I'D WANT TO BE? SUPERMAN.
I'D BE WEARING GLASSES AND STUFF AND PEOPLE WOULD BE MESSING WITH ME AND THEN I'D KICK BUTT.
I BET YOU'D BE A COOL SUPERHERO. YOU KNOW WHO YOU SHOULD BE?
WHO?
BATMAN... THEN I COULD BE ROBIN.
"AND NOW A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT."


"THEY TAKE AWAY YOUR SHOELACES AND YOUR BELT SO YOU CAN'T KILL YOURSELF NO MATTER HOW BAD IT IS."
"I GUESS MAKING YOU LIVE IS PART OF THE PUNISHMENT."
"IT'S FUNNY... BUT WHEN I'M SITTING IN THE COURTROOM I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M INVOLVED IN THE CASE."
"IT'S LIKE THE LAWYERS AND THE JUDGE AND EVERYBODY ARE DOING A JOB THAT INVOLVES ME BUT I DON'T HAVE A ROLE."
"IT'S ONLY WHEN I GO BACK TO THE CELLS THAT I KNOW I'M INVOLVED."
"MS. O'BRIEN SAYS THAT PETROCELLI IS USING BOLDEN'S TESTIMONY AS PART OF THE TRAIL THAT WILL LEAD TO ME AND JAMES KING."
"SHE'S WRONG."
"THEY'RE BRINGING OUT ALL OF THESE PEOPLE AND LETTING THEM LOOK TERRIBLE, THEN REMINDING THE JURY THAT THEY DON'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT FROM ME AND KING."
"A PREACHER CAME TO THE RECREATION ROOM WITH A GUARD. HE ASKED IF ANYONE WANTED TO TALK WITH HIM OR SHARE A MOMENT OF PRAYER."
"A GUY WHO WAS ON TRIAL FOR KILLING HIS WIFE STARTED CURSING AT THE PREACHER AND SAYING THAT IT WAS TOO LATE TO PUT UP A HOLY FRONT NOW."
"IN A WAY HE WAS RIGHT. I WANT TO LOOK LIKE A GOOD PERSON. I WANT TO FEEL LIKE A GOOD PERSON. BECAUSE I BELIEVE I AM."
"...BUT BEING IN HERE WITH THESE GUYS MAKES IT HARD TO THINK ABOUT YOURSELF AS DIFFERENT."
"I LIKE THE LAST SCENE IN THE MOVIE..."
"...THE ONE BETWEEN ME AND JERRY."
"IT MAKES ME SEEM LIKE A REAL PERSON."


"I COULDN'T SLEEP MOST OF THE NIGHT AFTER THE DREAM."
"THE DREAM TOOK PLACE IN THE COURTROOM."
"I WAS TRYING TO ASK QUESTIONS AND NOBODY COULD HEAR ME."
"I WAS SHOUTING AND SHOUTING BUT EVERYONE WENT ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS AS IF I WASN'T THERE."
"I HOPE I DIDN'T SHOUT OUT IN MY SLEEP."
"THAT WOULD LOOK WEAK TO EVERYBODY."
"IT'S NOT GOOD TO BE WEAK IN HERE."


FLASH!


"DETECTIVE KARYL, CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE SCENE WHEN YOU ENTERED THE DRUGSTORE?"
"IT WAS PRETTY GRUESOME."


ARE THESE THE PICTURES YOU TOOK AT THE TIME?
THE CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHER TOOK THEM.
MAY I SEE THEM?
DETECTIVE KARYL, WHEN YOU DISCOVERED THE BODY, WERE THERE ANY SIGNS OF LIFE IN THE VICTIM?
NO. BUT I CALLED THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE, WHICH IS STANDARD PROCEDURE.
"AND YOU NOTED THE OPEN CASH REGISTER?"
"THAT'S CORRECT. AND AT THE TIME I ASKED THE CLERK WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE MISSING. OFTEN IN THESE CASES YOU MIGHT FIND SOME COUGH MEDICINE MISSING..."
"OR SOME ATTEMPT TO OPEN A RESTRICTED-DRUG CASE."
"THERE'S A MARKET FOR DRUGS OF ANY KIND."
"DID YOU LOOK FOR OTHER CLUES...AND DID YOU FIND ANY?"
"WE LOOKED FOR OTHER CLUES ...BUT WE DIDN'T ACTUALLY FIND ANY."
"WE QUESTIONED A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE FELT MIGHT HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THE CRIME."
"THEN WE RECEIVED A TIP FROM A PERSON WHO CLAIMED HE KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CIGARETTES."
"THAT WOULD BE MR. ZINZI."


"THAT'S CORRECT. HE TOLD US ABOUT MR. BOLDEN. THEN MR. BOLDEN TOLD US ABOUT MR. EVANS AND MR. KING."
"AND BOTH ZINZI AND BOLDEN HAD THEIR OWN MOTIVES IN DOING THIS?"
"WE OFTEN USE INFORMATION FROM INFORMANTS...ESPECIALLY IN MURDER CASES."
"AND DID YOU TALK TO MR. KING?"
NYPD
"TO MR. KING AND SOME OF HIS ASSOCIATES."
"DID YOU SAY...ASSOCIATES?"
"FOR THE RECORD, HE SAID KING..."
"...AND HIS ASSOCIATES."



THEY'RE SAYING THAT YOU PULLED THE TRIGGER.
KING SAID THE SCORE WAS OVER BUT YOU TURNED BACK AND SHOT NESBITT.
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
I CAN'T FIGURE IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, MAN. I DIDN'T DO ANY STICKUP.
"YOU FIGURED YOU DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE ANY WITNESSES...I GUESS."
WHAT ARE WE PLAYING WITH THIS GUY FOR? WE DON'T NEED HIM. WE GOT THIS CASE LOCKED.
"THE DA IS THINKING NATURAL LIFE."
"YOU STAY UNTIL YOU DIE."
CHANCES ARE THE JUDGE WILL GO FOR 25 TO LIFE.


AND IF THEY COME CLEAN, HE MIGHT EVEN GO FOR 25 TO LIFE.
YOU SAVE A LOT OF MONEY AND TIME THAT WAY.
I DON'T KNOW THE VICTIM WAS WELL RESPECTED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
"HARDWORKING BLACK GUY, WORKED HIS WAY UP."
"HE EVEN SPONSORED A LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM."
NESBITT KNIGHTS
THE JUDGE COULD GO FOR NATURAL LIFE IF THEY PLEAD NOT GUILTY.
IT'S NOT LIKE THE OLD DAYS WHEN WE HAD THE DEATH PENALTY. WE COULDA SENT HIM OUT LIKE A MOVIE STAR.
WHAT ARE YOU... A PESSIMIST?
HOPE FOR THE BEST.


NATURAL LIFE!
STARRING
STEVE HARMON
"COME THIS WAY, MR. HARMON."
CRUMBLE!
DEATH CHAMBER
OPEN YOUR LEGS! WE HAVE TO PLUG UP YOUR BUTT SO YOU DON'T MESS YOURSELF AS YOU DIE.
AAAAiiiii!



YOU OKAY, STEVE?
YOU'RE SHAKING. BRIGGS IS UP.
I'M OKAY.
DETECTIVE KARYL...
DID YOU DUST THE AREA FOR FINGERPRINTS?
THE CRIME SCENE TECHNICIANS DIDN'T FIND ANY FINGERPRINTS THEY COULD ESTABLISH AS BELONGING TO A PERPETRATOR.
ISN'T IT TRUE THAT WHAT YOU DID IN THIS CASE WAS TO SKIP THE INVESTIGATION AND RUN TO YOUR STOOLIES?
"WE TREAT EACH CASE CAREFULLY. WE DON'T JUST GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS."
THE CASH REGISTER WAS HANDLED... BUT YOU DIDN'T FIND FINGERPRINTS...
IS THAT TRUE?
NOT CLEAR PRINTS.
WHAT ABOUT THE COUNTER?
WAS THAT DUSTED FOR FINGERPRINTS?
NOTHING CLEAR ENOUGH TO USE.
AND IT REALLY ISN'T THAT HARD TO FIND PEOPLE WHO ARE IN JAIL OR WHOM YOU ARRESTED TO SWEAR THAT SOMEBODY ELSE IS A BAD GUY?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
WE CHECK EVERY STORY. WE GIVE EVERYBODY THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.
BUT YOU DON'T CHECK FINGERPRINTS....
...NOTHING FURTHER.


I HAVE TO CHANGE THE SCRIPT. I CAN'T GO OUT LIKE THIS....


THEY GOT TO GIVE YOU SOME TIME. A GUY DIES AND YOU GET TIME. THAT'S THE DEAL. WHY THE HELL SHOULD YOU WALK?
AND DON'T GIVE ME YOUNG.
YOUNG DON'T COUNT WHEN A GUY DIES.
'CAUSE I'M A HUMAN BEING. I WANT A LIFE TOO.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
NOTHING. BUT THERE'S RULES YOU GOT TO FOLLOW. YOU DO THE CRIME, YOU DO THE TIME. YOU ACT LIKE GARBAGE, THEY TREAT YOU LIKE GARBAGE.
YO, MAN. YOU ACTING LIKE YOU A PREACHER OR SOMETHING...
BUT GUESS WHERE YOU AT? THIS AIN'T NO HOTEL...
BUT SUPPOSE HE INNOCENT.
YOU INNOCENT?
YES.
YEAH...WELL...SOMEBODY GOT TO DO SOME TIME. THEY'RE GOING TO LOCK SOMEBODY UP.
WELL, THAT'S WHY THEY HOLDING A TRIAL... SO THE JURY CAN SAY IF HE'S INNOCENT OR NOT.
WHAT HE SAY DON'T EVEN COUNT.
WHATEVER. ANYONE GOT A NEWSPAPER?


ANOTHER LONG DAY IN COURT, EH, MA'AM?
HE'S RIGHT, STEVE...ANOTHER DAY.
SO REMEMBER, SIT UP STRAIGHT AND LOOK LIKE YOU CARE.
THAT REFLECTS POSITIVELY ON YOU IN THE JURY'S EYES.
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'RE THINKING ABOUT?
AT THIS POINT IN THE TRIAL IT'S HARD TO TELL.



IS THAT REALLY NECESSARY?
WHY DO THEY HAVE TO CHAIN HIM TO THE CHAIR?
HE LOOKS HARMLESS.
GOTTA REMIND THESE KIDS THEY'RE IN COURT.
I DON'T KNOW WHY WE'RE WASTING TIME. HE'S AS GUILTY AS WHEN I FIRST LAID EYES ON HIM.
DON'T TELL NOBODY I SAID THIS, BUT A YOUNG BLACK KID ON TRIAL... DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
I JUST NEED TO WEIGH THE FACTS.
DON'T TELL ME YOU BELIEVE THAT "INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY" MESS?
THAT PROSECUTOR GOT THAT KID LOOKING AT LIFE, AT LEAST.
YEAH...THAT KID IS A MONSTER.
I'M CURIOUS TO SEE WHERE THIS GOES.
UH-HUH. HIS ATTORNEY IS ON POINT. HERE COMES THE WITNESS. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT HIM?


"ONE OF THE JURORS HEARD HE WAS A BAD DUDE."
HE GOES TO THAT FAGGOT SCHOOL DOWNTOWN. ALL THEY LEARN THERE IS HOW TO BE A FAGGOT.
YOU LET OSVALDO DISS YOU LIKE THAT, MAN?
HE DON'T HAVE NO CHOICE. HE MESS WITH ME AND THE DIABLOS WILL BURN HIM UP.
AIN'T THAT RIGHT, FAGGOT?
I CAN KICK YOUR NARROW BUTT ANY DAY IN THE WEEK.
WELL, HERE IT IS... SO WHY DON'T YOU COME KICK IT?
YOU BETTER CHILL, OZ. HE HANGS WITH SOME BAD DUDES.
HE DON'T HANG WITH NOBODY. HE'S JUST A LAME LOOKING FOR A NAME.
HE AIN'T GOT NO HEART.
EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT.
HE MIGHT BE HANGING WITH SOME PEOPLE, BUT WHEN THE DEAL GOES DOWN, HE WON'T BE AROUND.
"AND YOU WILL BE? HUH!"

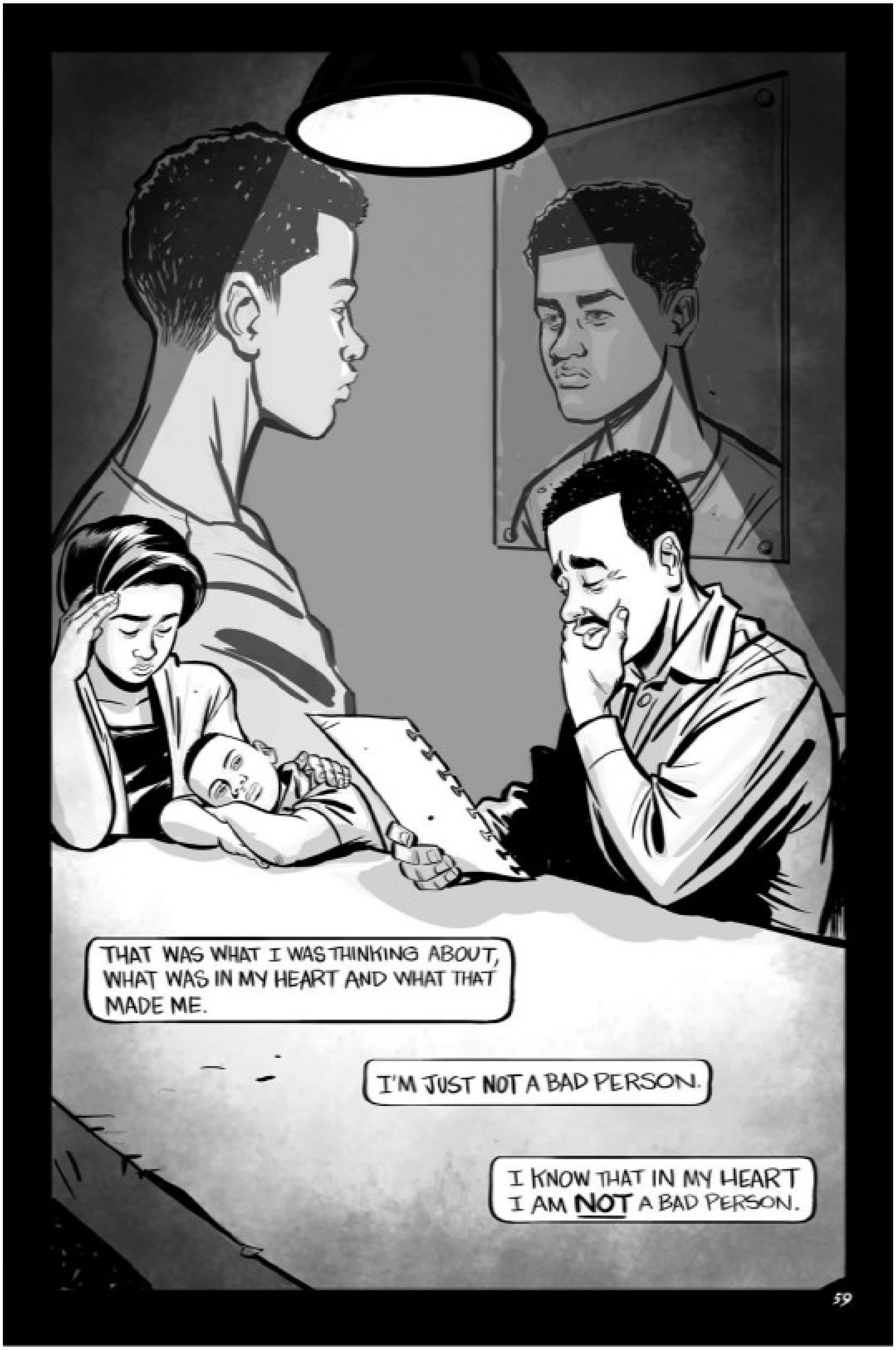

REPEAT WHAT YOU JUST SAID, MR. CRUZ. I DON'T THINK THE COURT HEARD YOU.
BOBO SAID TO ME IF I DIDN'T HELP HIM HE'D CUT ME UP.
I'M GONNA CUT YOU UP!
I'M GONNA GET YOUR MOMS, TOO!
BELIEVE THAT!
"HAVE YOU EVER SEEN BOBO HURT ANYONE?"
I HEARD HE MESSED UP A DUDE IN THE PROJECTS.
OBJECTION!
"SUSTAINED."
DO YOU KNOW AS A MATTER OF FACT IF BOBO HAS HURT ANYONE IN THE HOOD?
"OBJECTION! UNLESS THE PROSECUTOR IS GOING TO PASS OUT GLOSSARIES TO THE JURY, I WANT HER TO USE STANDARD ENGLISH."
"OVERRULED."
YES, YOUR HONOR. I'LL CONTINUE.


HE TOLD ME HE DID SOME TIME FOR CUTTING A GUY IN THE PROJECTS.
"DO YOU KNOW HOW OLD BOBO IS?"
TWENTY-TWO.
AND HOW OLD ARE YOU, OSVALDO?
OBJECTION! WHY ARE WE SUDDENLY ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS?
AND HOW OLD ARE YOU... MR. CRUZ?
FOURTEEN.
YOU LIVE ON 144TH STREET.
IS THAT CORRECT?
"YEAH... ACROSS FROM THE SCHOOL."
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A SERIES OF NAMES, AND YOU WILL TELL ME IF YOU KNOW ANY OF THEM....
...JAMES KING.


THE QUESTION IS ASKED.
YEAH...TH-THAT'S HIM AT THAT TABLE IN THE BLUE SUIT.
LET THE RECORD INDICATE THAT MR. CRUZ HAS IDENTIFIED MR. KING...
...STEVE HARMON?
"HE'S THE BLACK GUY SITTING AT THE OTHER TABLE."
"LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT MR. CRUZ HAS IDENTIFIED STEVE HARMON."
ALL RIGHT. DID MR. EVANS...BOBO... MAKE A PROPOSITION TO YOU?
LEADING!
YOUR HONOR, MR. CRUZ IS A JUVENILE.
HE'S HOSTILE? HE'S A JUVENILE. DO YOU MEAN TO SAY HE'S HOSTILE?
NO...BUT YOU ARE.
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY, MS. PETROCELLI. YOU HAVEN'T ESTABLISHED MR. CRUZ AS A HOSTILE WITNESS.


MR. CRUZ, HOW REAL DID YOU THINK MR. EVANS...
...BOBO'S... THREATS WERE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE REAL DEAL, YOU KNOW...
LIKE I THOUGHT HE WOULD MESS ME UP.
WERE YOU AFRAID OF MR. KING?
"OBJECTION! IF SHE WANTS TO TESTIFY INSTEAD OF THE WITNESS, FINE. SWEAR HER IN..."
"...BUT SHE CAN'T LEAD THE WITNESS LIKE THAT."
"SUSTAINED."
"DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN THIS ROBBERY?"
YES...I DID.
"WHY?"
"BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID OF THEM."
"THEY WERE ALL OLDER THAN ME."
"WHO EXACTLY ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
BOBO...
...JAMES KING...
"...AND STEVE HARMON."


"LET'S TAKE A RECESS. WE'LL ALL BE A BIT MORE CIVIL AFTER A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP."
Dear Mom and Dad,
THIS MORNING ONE OF THE GUYS IN THE NEXT CELL EXPECTS A VERDICT.
HIS NAME IS ACIE.
HE WAS TELLING EVERBODY THAT HE DIDN'T CARE WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT HIM.
HE HELD UP A CHECK-CASHING PLACE AND SHOT THE GUARD.
HE SAID THAT ALL THEY COULD DO IS PUT HIM IN JAIL. THEY COULDN'T TOUCH HIS SOUL.
HE SAID HE NEEDED THE MONEY AND INTENDED TO PAY IT BACK ONCE HE GOT ON HIS FEET.
HE SAID THAT GOD UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD GIVE HIM ANOTHER CHANCE.
THEN HE STARTED CRYING.
MS. O'BRIEN SAID THE JUDGE COULD SENTENCE ME TO 25 YEARS TO LIFE.
IF HE DID, I WOULD HAVE TO SERVE AT LEAST 21 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS.
I CAN'T IMAGINE BEING IN JAIL FOR THAT LONG.
I WANTED TO CRY WITH THAT GUY...
THANKS, MOM, FOR LEAVING ME CLEAN SHIRTS AND UNDERWEAR. I THOUGHT OF YOU IN THE KITCHEN IRONING SHIRTS. I THINK ABOUT MYSELF SO MUCH, ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME AND ALL, THAT I DON'T ALWAYS THINK OF YOU GUYS THAT MUCH.
I KNOW YOU LOVE ME, BUT I WONDER WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT.
I THOUGHT ABOUT MR. NESBITT AND REMEMBERED THE PICTURES THEY SHOWED OF HIM WHEN THEY WERE PASSING THEM TO THE JURY.
I DIDN'T LOOK AT THEM BUT AFTERWARD MS. O'BRIEN PUT THEM ON THE TABLE IN FRONT OF US.
I LOOKED AT THEM...
I DIDN'T SEE HER LOOKING AT ME BUT I KNEW SHE WAS. SHE WANTED TO KNOW WHO I WAS. WHO WAS STEVE HARMON.
I WANTED TO OPEN MY SHIRT AND TELL HER TO LOOK INTO MY HEART TO SEE WHO I REALLY WAS, WHO THE REAL STEVE HARMON WAS.


THAT WAS WHAT I WAS THINKING ABOUT, WHAT WAS IN MY HEART AND WHAT THAT MADE ME.
I'M JUST NOT A BAD PERSON.
I KNOW THAT IN MY HEART I AM NOT A BAD PERSON.


THEY AIN'T GOT NOTHING YET. OSVALDO DON'T MEAN NOTHING 'CAUSE THEY LET HIM WALK.
ANYONE CAN SEE THAT. YOU THINKING ABOUT CUTTING A DEAL?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, SCARE ME? HOW CAN YOU SCARE ME WHEN I GO TO BED EVERY NIGHT TERRIFIED OUT OF MY MIND? EVERYBODY ELSE IN HERE SCARES ME... THE JUDGE...
...THE GUARDS...
BUT YOU CAN'T SCARE ME WITH A LOOK.
YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?
NAW.


"ONCE THE TRIAL ACTUALLY BEGINS THERE WILL BE NO TALKING."
"THIS IS PART OF THE AMERICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM, AND WE HAVE TO RESPECT EVERY PART OF IT."
WHY HE LOOKIN' AT ME?
IF YOU GIVE UP, THEY'LL GIVE UP ON YOU. GET YOUR HEAD UP!
WE'RE STARTING AGAIN AND OSVALDO'S BACK ON THE STAND.
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SO WHAT DID RICHARD EVANS, THE MAN WE ARE REFERRING TO AS BOBO, SUGGEST TO YOU?
I GOT THE PLACE ALL LINED UP. YOUR JOB IS TO SLOW DOWN ANYBODY WHO COMES OUT AFTER US.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
"WHEN BOBO MENTIONED THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS, DID HE SPECIFY WHAT PART THEY WERE TO PLAY?"
ME AND KING IS GONNA GO IN AND DO THE THANG.
STEVE OVER THERE IS THE LOOKOUT.
"AND HOW WERE THE PROCEEDS OF THIS ROBBERY GOING TO BE DIVIDED?"
NOW REMEMBER... WHEN IT'S ALL OVER EVERYBODY'S GONNA GET A TASTE.
"AND IS THAT TASTE... OR SHARE OF THE TAKE... THE REASON YOU PARTICIPATED IN THIS ROBBERY?"
NO. I WAS IN BECAUSE I WAS SCARED OF BOBO.
"MR. CRUZ, YOU'RE TESTIFYING AGAINST PEOPLE YOU KNOW. ARE YOU TESTIFYING BECAUSE YOU'RE GETTING A DEAL FROM THE GOVERNMENT?"
"YEAH."
"NOTHING FURTHER."


"YOUR WITNESS, MR. BRIGGS."
MR. CRUZ, YOU WERE ONE OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THE CRIME?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
SO FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES YOU WERE UP TO YOUR NECK IN A CRIME IN WHICH A MAN WAS MURDERED.
IS THAT RIGHT? IS THAT HOW YOU SAW IT?
"I GUESS SO."
"AND NOW THAT YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, YOU'D DO PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF TROUBLE, WOULDN'T YOU?"
"AND WHEN I SAY ANYTHING, I MEAN TELL LIES, GET OTHER PEOPLE IN TROUBLE, ANYTHING?"
NO.
AND WHEN THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFERED YOU A DEAL THAT WOULD KEEP YOU OUT OF JAIL, YOU JUMPED AT IT, DIDN'T YOU?
"I WOULDN'T LIE IN COURT. I'M TELLING THE TRUTH."
HASN'T THE PROSECUTOR GIVEN YOU A CHOICE? YOU GO TO JAIL OR YOU PUT SOMEBODY ELSE IN JAIL? ISN'T THAT YOUR CHOICE?
I DON'T GO AROUND LYING TO PEOPLE...ESPECIALLY WHEN I SWEAR.
IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO LIE UNDER OATH...BUT IT WOULD BE JUST FINE TO GO INTO A DRUGSTORE AND STICK IT UP? THAT'S COOL...ISN'T IT?
THAT WAS A MISTAKE.
NOTHING MORE.


"YOUR TURN, MS. O'BRIEN."
OSVALDO, DO YOU KNOW HOW YOU WERE APPREHENDED?
I HAD A FIGHT WITH MY GIRLFRIEND AND SHE CALLED THE POLICE.
"A FIGHT? YOU MEAN AN ARGUMENT?"
"A DISAGREEMENT?"
SHE FOUND OUT I GOT ANOTHER GIRL PREGNANT.
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF A GANG?
"NO."
SO THE INFORMATION I HAVE ABOUT YOU BELONGING TO A GANG CALLED THE DIABLOS IS WRONG?
HUNHH... NO... THAT'S RIGHT. I BELONG TO THE DIABLOS.
SO YOUR FIRST ANSWER WAS A LIE?
"IT WAS A MISTAKE."
"YOU ALSO SAID THAT THE ROBBERY WAS A MISTAKE. PERHAPS YOU CAN TELL US THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MISTAKE AND A LIE."

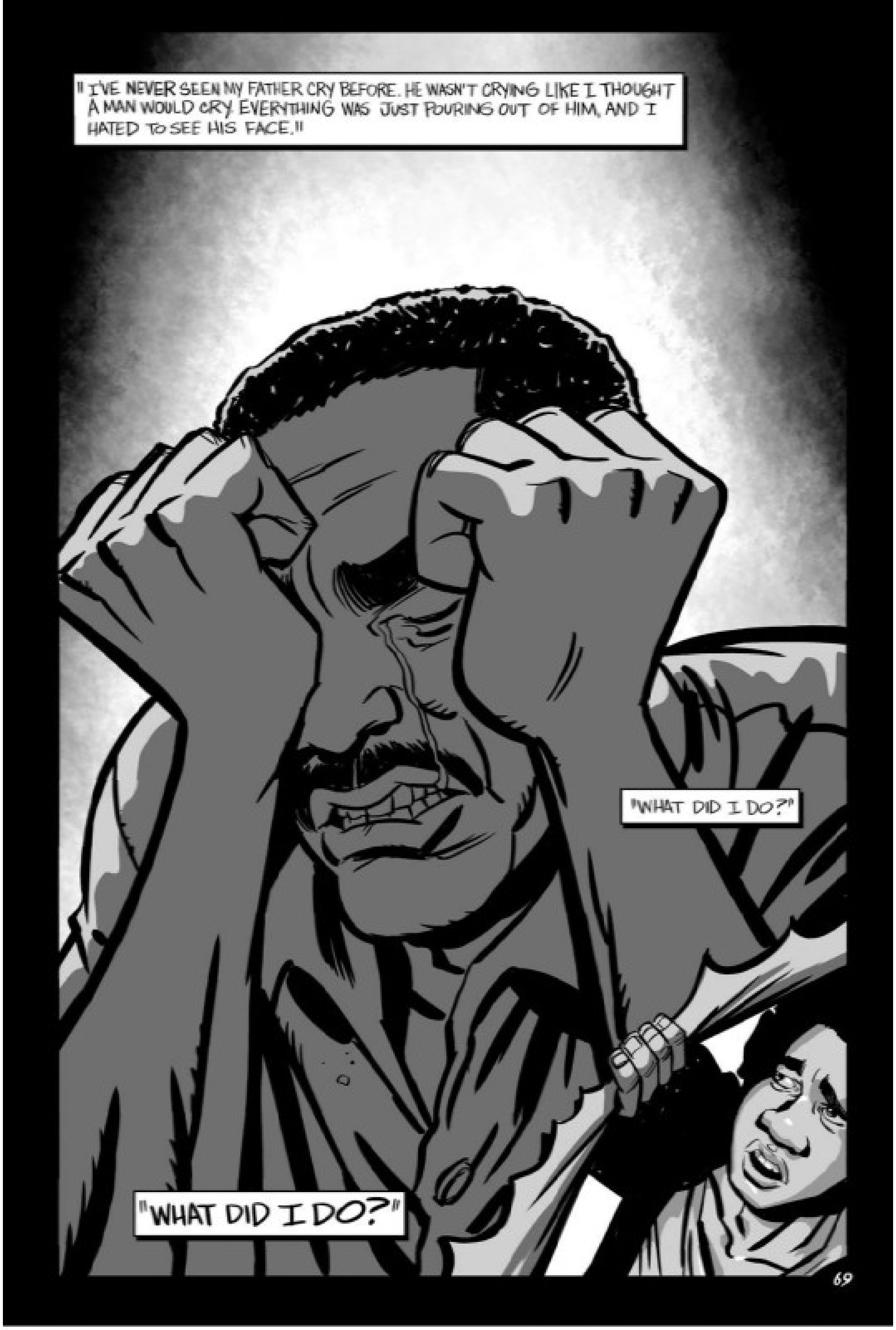


HEY, I'M JUST TRYING TO TURN MY LIFE AROUND. I MADE A MISTAKE AND NOW I FIGURE IT'S ABOUT TIME I DID THE RIGHT THING.
HOW DO YOU GET INTO THIS GANG, MR. CRUZ? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO DO TO BECOME A MEMBER?
YOU HAVE TO FIGHT A GUY WHO'S ALREADY IN THE CLUB TO SHOW YOU GOT THE HEART.
"AND DON'T YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ELSE?"
"SOMETHING INVOLVING A KNIFE?"
"YOU GOT TO LEAVE YOUR MARK ON SOMEBODY..."
"CAN YOU TELL THE JURY EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS TO LEAVE YOUR MARK ON SOMEBODY?"
"...SOMEWHERE IT SHOWS."
SO TO BE A MEMBER OF THIS GANG, THE DIABLOS, YOU HAVE TO FIGHT A GANG MEMBER AND THEN CUT SOMEONE. USUALLY THAT'S DONE TO A STRANGER, AND THE CUT IS MADE IN THE FACE...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
THEY DON'T DO THAT ANYMORE.
BUT NOW YOU WANT US TO BELIEVE THAT YOU PARTICIPATED IN THIS ROBBERY BECAUSE YOU WERE AFRAID OF BOBO...
AND NOT BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT YOU DO?
I WAS AFRAID.


"YOU WEREN'T AFRAID TO FIGHT A MEMBER OF THE DIABLOS AND GET INTO THE GANG."
"YOU WEREN'T AFRAID OF CUTTING A STRANGER IN THE FACE."
"YOU WEREN'T AFRAID OF BEATING UP YOUR GIRLFRIEND..."
"...BUT YOU WERE AFRAID OF BOBO, IS THAT RIGHT?"
YEAH.
"COURT ADJOURNED FOR THE DAY."


BUZZ
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
ALL RIGHT. YOU TALK TO MS. O'BRIEN?
SHE DOESN'T SOUND THAT POSITIVE. THERE'S SO MUCH GARBAGE GOING THROUGH THAT COURTROOM, SHE THINKS THAT ANYBODY IN THERE IS GOING TO HAVE SOME STINK ON HIM.
SHE SAID SHE'S GOING TO PUT ME ON THE STAND.
GIVE ME A CHANCE TO TELL MY SIDE OF THE STORY...
...AND I'M GOING TO TELL THE TRUTH...
"YOU BELIEVE THAT... DON'T YOU?"


WHEN YOU WERE FIRST BORN, I WOULD LIE UP IN BED THINKING ABOUT SCENES OF YOUR LIFE.
"YOU PLAYING FOOTBALL. YOU GOING OFF TO COLLEGE."
"I USED TO THINK OF YOU GOING TO MOREHOUSE AND DOING THE SAME THINGS I DID WHEN I WAS THERE..."
"I NEVER MADE THE FOOTBALL TEAM, BUT I THOUGHT..."
"I DREAMED YOU WOULD."
"I EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING MAD AT YOU FOR STAYING OUT TOO LATE... AH... THERE YOU WERE LYING ON THE BED IN THOSE DISPOSABLE DIAPERS."
"I WANTED THE REAL DIAPERS BUT YOUR MOTHER INSISTED ON THE KIND YOU DON'T HAVE TO WASH."
"...JUST THROW AWAY."
"I NEVER THOUGHT OF SEEING YOU... YOU KNOW... SEEING YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS. IT JUST NEVER CAME TO ME THAT YOU'D EVER BE IN ANY KIND OF TROUBLE."
HOW'S MOM DOING?
"SHE'S STRUGGLING.
"IT'S HARD ON ALL OF US."
"I KNOW IT'S HARD ON YOU."
STEVE. IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, SON. IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. YOU'RE GOING TO BE HOME AGAIN, AND IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
HEY! NO TOUCHING!


"I'VE NEVER SEEN MY FATHER CRY BEFORE. HE WASN'T CRYING LIKE I THOUGHT A MAN WOULD CRY. EVERYTHING WAS JUST POURING OUT OF HIM, AND I HATED TO SEE HIS FACE."
"WHAT DID I DO?"
"WHAT DID I DO?"


"ANYBODY CAN WALK INTO A DRUGSTORE AND LOOK AROUND. IS THAT WHAT I'M ON TRIAL FOR? I DIDN'T DO NOTHING! I DIDN'T DO NOTHING!"
"BUT EVERYBODY IS JUST MESSED UP WITH THE PAIN..."
CIG
"I DIDN'T FIGHT WITH MR NESBITT."
"I DIDN'T TAKE ANY MONEY FROM HIM."
"SEEING MY DAD CRY LIKE THAT WAS JUST SO TERRIBLE."
"WHAT WAS GOING ON BETWEEN US, ME BEING HIS SON AND HIM BEING MY DAD, IS PUSHED DOWN AND SOMETHING ELSE IS MOVING UP IN ITS PLACE."
"IT'S LIKE A MAN LOOKING DOWN TO SEE HIS SON AND SEEING A MONSTER."
"MS O'BRIEN SAID THINGS WERE GOING BAD FOR US BECAUSE SHE WAS AFRAID THE JURY WOULDN'T SEE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND ALL THE BAD GUYS TAKING THE STAND."
"I THINK MY DAD THINKS THE SAME THING."
"I REMEMBER THAT DAY...."


STEVE? DID YOU HEAR? MRS. LUCAS SAID THEY GOT THOSE GUYS THAT KILLED THE DRUGSTORE OWNER.
TURN ON THE TV.
YOU THINK IT'S ON THE NEWS?
AN ARREST HAS BEEN MADE IN THE ROBBERY AND MURDER IN AN UPTOWN DRUGSTORE. THE POLICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THE ARREST OF RICHARD EVANS, KNOWN IN THE COMMUNITY AS BOBO.
BREAKING NEWS
MAYOR RUDY GIULIANI SAYS THAT HE IS DETERMINED TO STOP CRIME IN ALL AREAS OF THE CITY.
"THE IDEA THAT WE'RE JUST TRYING TO STOP CRIME IN WHITE OR MIDDLE-CLASS AREAS IS NONSENSE."
"EVERYONE LIVING IN THE CITY DESERVES THE SAME PROTECTION."
KNOCK! KNOCK!
WE NEED STEVEN TO COME DOWN TO THE PRECINCT WITH US. JUST A FEW QUESTIONS.
ME? ABOUT WHAT?
"SOME CLOWN SAID YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH THAT DRUGSTORE STICKUP JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS."
"YOU KNOW THE ONE I MEAN?"


WHY ARE YOU HANDCUFFING MY SON IF YOU JUST WANT TO ASK HIM A FEW QUESTIONS?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO WITH IT?
MA'AM, IT'S ROUTINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, WHEN YOU'RE HANDCUFFING MY SON?
"I'M COMING WITH YOU. YOU'RE NOT JUST SNATCHING MY SON OFF LIKE HE'S SOME KIND OF CRIMINAL."
"WAIT TILL I GET MY COAT!"
SCREECH!
"JUST WAIT A MINUTE!"
JUST WAIT ONE MINUTE!


"I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME EDITING."
"I CAN'T STOMACH THIS PART OF THE TRIAL."
"IT'S TOO REAL. I'LL START WITH THIS SECTION."



IT WAS A REGISTERED GUN. THAT PERMIT WAS IN EFFECT SINCE 1999.
SO THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL OR ILLEGAL ABOUT THE GUN BEING IN THE DRUGSTORE? IS THAT CORRECT, MR. FORBES?
I ARRIVED AT THE SCENE AT 5:15. THE BODY OF THE VICTIM WAS LYING HALFWAY... HIS LEGS WERE HALF STICKING OUT FROM BEHIND THE COUNTER.
I DIDN'T KNOW AT THE TIME IF IT WAS THE GUN THAT KILLED THE VICTIM OR NOT.
WE CHALKED THE BODY SO WE COULD TURN IT OVER AND SEE IF THERE WAS ANY POSSIBLE EVIDENCE BENEATH THE VICTIM.
THE GUYS AT THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE WANTED TO MOVE THE BODY.
IT WAS TIME FOR THEIR SHIFT TO END... AND I ALLOWED IT.
THE AUTOPSY I CONDUCTED REVEALED A COMBINATION OF TRAUMA TO THE INTERNAL ORGANS... AS WELL AS BY THE LUNGS FILLING WITH BLOOD.
YOU MEAN HE LITERALLY DROWNED IN HIS OWN BLOOD?
"AS MUCH AS I WANT TO... I CAN'T CUT THIS OUT."



YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT I'M AFRAID OF?
I MEAN REALLY AFRAID OF?
"I'M AFRAID THAT MS. O'BRIEN THINKS I'M GUILTY. SHE WRITES DOWN WHAT IS BEING SAID, AND WHAT IS BEING SAID ABOUT ME, AND SHE ADDS IT ALL UP TO GUILTY."
I'M NOT GUILTY!
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID, 'I DIDN'T DO IT!'
"I'M AFRAID OF BEING HIT OR RAPED."
YO, STEVE. COME OVA HERE AND LET US TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE.
"I'M AFRAID OF THE KIND OF TIME I CAN GET. FELONY MURDER IS 25 YEARS TO LIFE. MY WHOLE LIFE WILL BE GONE."
CALENDAR
"A GUY SAYS THAT 25 YEARS MEANS YOU HAVE TO SERVE AT LEAST 20. I CAN'T STAY IN PRISON FOR 20 YEARS. I JUST CAN'T."
"AY-YO, HARMON!"


YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
NO LOUD TALKING
NO TOUCHING
NO TRANSFER OF ANY UNAPPROVED MATERIALS
YO, DIDN'T YOU READ THE RULES?
NO RUNNING!
MOM, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU'RE HERE.
I'M SORRY FOR NOT VISITING BEFORE.... I...I JUST...
"IT'S OKAY, MOM."


YOUR BROTHER IS DOING FINE. HE DOES MISS YOU. I'M GOING TO BRING HIM TOMORROW.
HE'LL BE BELOW YOUR WINDOW.
"GOOD. YOU DON'T WANT HIM IN HERE."
DO YOU THINK I SHOULD HAVE GOT A BLACK LAWYER? SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD SAID I SHOULD HAVE CONTACTED A BLACK LAWYER.
"I DUNNO, MS. O'BRIEN IS DOING ALL RIGHT... I GUESS."
HERE. IT'S OKAY. THEY CHECKED IT.
READ THIS.
"THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SHIELD. MY HEART TRUSTED IN HIM AND I AM HELPED. THEREFORE MY HEART GREATLY REJOICETH."
SALVATION
COMPASSION
GRACE
"AND WITH MY SONG WILL I PRAISE HIM."


I KNOW IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE BEEN IN HERE A LONG TIME. SOME GUYS HAVE DONE A WHOLE CALENDAR IN HERE....
I MEAN A WHOLE YEAR.
"LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, STEVE..."
"NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS..."
"I KNOW YOU ARE INNOCENT..."
"AND I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH."
"NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS..."
"I KNOW YOU ARE INNOCENT..."
"WHO AM I FOOLING?"


I FOUND WHERE THE PAYDAY IS.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
I GUESS SO.
WELL, GUESS THIS. I NEED TO PUT TOGETHER A PAYROLL CREW. GET MY POCKETS FAT. F-A-T. I TALKED TO BOBO AND HE'S DOWN... BUT BOBO'S LIABLE NOT TO SHOW. WHEN HE SHOWS, HE SHOWS CORRECT.
BUT SOMETIMES HE ACTS LIKE A SPACEMAN OR SOMETHING.
"BOBO'S NOT EINSTEIN."
"WHATEVER. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE NO EINSTEIN TO GET PAID. ALL YOU GOT TO HAVE IS THE HEART."
"YOU GOT THE HEART?"
HEART? FOR WHAT?
"TO GET PAID. I GOT A SURE GETOVER. YOU KNOW THAT DRUGSTORE GOT BURNED OUT THAT TIME? THEY GOT IT ALL FIXED UP NOW.
DRUGSTORES ALWAYS KEEP SOME MONEY.
THAT'S WHAT BOBO SAID?
YEAH. ALL WE NEED IS A LOOKOUT. YOU KNOW... CHECK THE PLACE OUT...
MAKE SURE AIN'T NO BADGES COPPIN' SOME Z'S IN THE BACK.
YOU DOWN FOR IT?
SO... WHAT IS IT?


HOLY BIBLE
"I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY THERE ARE SO MANY FIGHTS."


"IN HERE... ALL YOU HAVE GOING FOR YOU IS THE LITTLE SURFACE STUFF..."
"...HOW PEOPLE LOOK AT YOU AND WHAT THEY SAY..."
"AND IF THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE..."
"...THEN YOU HAVE TO PROTECT THAT...."
"...MAYBE THAT'S RIGHT."


"HARMON...YOU HAVE GUESTS."
DID YOU SEE YOUR BROTHER DOWN IN THE STREET?



Monday
JULY
13
THEN I SAID ... YOUR BRIEFS ... NOT YOUR BRIEFS.
THAT'S FUNNY.
ENOUGH FOR NOW.
YOUR WITNESS, MS. PETROCELLI.
"THE STATE CALLS MS. LORELLE HENRY."
"MS. HENRY, DO YOU REMEMBER AN INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED LAST DECEMBER IN HARLEM?"
YES, I DO.


"CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE INCIDENT?"
MY GRANDDAUGHTER HAD A COLD. IT WAS JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND I DIDN'T WANT IT TO RUIN HER CHRISTMAS.
"I HAD TAKEN HER TO HARLEM HOSPITAL AND THEY SAID IT WASN'T SERIOUS, BUT SHE WAS STILL COUGHING."
OPEN
"I WENT INTO THE DRUGSTORE TO LOOK FOR SOME COUGH MEDICINE..."
"...TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH WOULD BE BEST FOR HER..."
"...WHEN I HEARD SOMEONE ARGUING."
"DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE ARGUMENT WAS ABOUT?"
NO, I DON'T.
"THE STORE OWNER...MR. NESBITT ...CAME OVER TO SEE WHAT THE ARGUMENT WAS ABOUT..."
"...AND I HEARD ONE OF THE MEN WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE ARGUMENT SAY TO HIM..."
"...ASK HIM WHERE THE MONEY WAS."


"HOW SURE ARE YOU THAT THIS IS WHAT HE SAID?"
"NOT THAT SURE. IT'S WHAT I THINK I HEARD."
AND WHAT DID YOU SEE DURING THIS TIME?
"I SAW TWO YOUNG MEN ENGAGED IN AN ARGUMENT."
"THEN I SAW ONE OF THEM GRAB THE DRUGSTORE OWNER BY THE COLLAR."
"AND THEN I LEFT THE STORE AS QUICKLY AS I COULD."
"I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE TROUBLE."
MS HENRY...DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANYONE PRESENT TODAY IN THE COURTROOM WHO WAS ALSO IN THE DRUGSTORE ON THE DAY TO WHICH YOU ARE REFERRING?
THE GENTLEMAN SITTING AT THAT TABLE WAS ONE OF THE MEN ARGUING.
LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT MS.HENRY HAS INDICATED THAT THE DEFENDANT... JAMES KING...WAS ONE OF THE MEN SHE SAW IN THE DRUGSTORE ON THAT DAY.
YOUR WITNESS, MR.BRIGGS.


MS. HENRY... DID YOU HAVE OCCASION TO SEE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF MR. KING?
YES, I DID. AT THE POLICE STATION.
YOU HEARD ABOUT THE ROBBERY AND THE DEATH OF MR. NESBITT AND YOU WENT TO THE POLICE.
IS THAT CORRECT?
THAT'S CORRECT.
"AND THE POLICE SHOWED YOU A SERIES OF PICTURES."
"WOULD YOU SAY A THOUSAND PICTURES?"
"A THOUSAND?"
"NO."
"MAYBE 30 TO 40."
"MAYBE 20?"
"WOULD YOU SAY 27?"
I COULDN'T SAY.
"SO THE TRUTH IS THAT THE POLICE SHOWED YOU A FEW PHOTOGRAPHS AND ASKED YOU TO COOPERATE WITH THEM IN FINDING A KILLER."
IS THAT CORRECT?
"MORE OR LESS."


MORE OR LESS?
WELL, I WANT TO GET TO THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER, MS. HENRY. THE POLICE DID SHOW YOU THE PICTURES... AND THEY WERE LOOKING FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN FINDING A KILLER? IS THAT CORRECT?
"YES."
MS. HENRY... WHILE YOU WERE LOOKING OVER THE PICTURES, WERE THERE MOMENTS OF HESITATION?
WERE THERE MOMENTS WHEN YOU WEREN'T QUITE SURE?
OR DID YOU RECOGNIZE MR. KING AS SOON AS YOU SAW HIS PICTURE?
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM AT FIRST... BUT THEN I DID.... THE PICTURES LOOK DIFFERENT THAN HE DOES IN PERSON.
SO HOW DID YOU RECOGNIZE HIM IF HE LOOKS DIFFERENT IN PERSON THAN HE DOES IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS?
"I FINALLY RECOGNIZED HIM. AND WHEN I SEE HIM NOW I RECOGNIZE HIM."
WERE YOU EVER GIVEN A DESCRIPTION OF MR. KING? EVER TOLD HOW MUCH HE WEIGHED OR HOW TALL HE WAS?
NO, I WAS NOT.


YOU SAID THAT SOMEONE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT MR. NESBITT SHOWING THEM WHERE THE MONEY WAS...
...IS THAT CORRECT?
"THAT'S CORRECT."
DO YOU REMEMBER WHO SAID THAT?
WAS IT THE MAN YOU THINK WAS MR. KING?
"I DON'T KNOW."
YOU TESTIFIED IN A PRETRIAL HEARING THAT YOU HAD SOME TROUBLE TESTIFYING THAT MR. KING WAS INVOLVED IN THIS EVENT...IS THAT CORRECT?
MS. HENRY?
I HAVE TROUBLE TESTIFYING AGAINST A BLACK MAN...
...IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.



BUT SOMEHOW YOU DON'T HAVE TROUBLE IDENTIFYING MR. KING AT THIS TIME...ISN'T THAT SO?
I THINK I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING. I THINK I'M IDENTIFYING THE RIGHT MAN.
"DID YOU EVER IDENTIFY MR. KING IN A LINEUP?"
"YES, I DID."
"WAS THAT BEFORE OR AFTER YOU SAW THE PHOTOGRAPHS?"
"THAT WAS AFTER I SAW THE PHOTOGRAPHS."
AND HOW MANY MEN WERE IN THE LINEUP?
I BELIEVE THERE WERE SIX.
SIX...ONLY SIX...
HMMM... NOTHING FURTHER.
YOURS, MS. O'BRIEN.
"NO QUESTIONS, YOUR HONOR."


IS THERE ANY QUESTION IN YOUR MIND THAT THE MAN YOU IDENTIFIED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS IS THE SAME MAN WHO SITS AT THIS TABLE?
"NO ... THERE IS NOT."
THANK YOU. NOTHING FURTHER.
WHEN THIS GUY GETS ON THE STAND, I WANT YOU TO TAKE NOTES. JUST WRITE DOWN ANY QUESTIONS YOU WANT US TO ASK.
LIKE WHAT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE JUST NEED THE JURY TO KNOW WE'RE CHALLENGING THIS GUY.
YEAH... YEAH.
RICHARD "BOBO" EVANS, YOUR HONOR.


'SUP, Y'ALL!


YOUR HONOR... COULD WE HAVE A SIDEBAR?
WHY IS HE DRESSED IN A PRISON UNIFORM??
THE PROSECUTION IS GOING TO TRY TO CONNECT HIM TO MY CLIENT.
WITH HIM IN PRISON GEAR... THAT PREJUDICES THE JURY AGAINST MY CLIENT.
HE REFUSED TO PUT ON A SUIT.
WE MADE THE OFFER.
IT'S STILL PREJUDICIAL.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO MAKE THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE.
THE GUY LOOKS LIKE A BASKET CASE, AND HE'S GOING TO ACT LIKE ONE.
I DON'T WANT TO HOLD THE CASE UP WHILE YOU CONVINCE THIS GUY TO WEAR A SUIT.
LET'S GET ON WITH THE CASE.
I'D LIKE TO ESTABLISH THE OBJECTION.
OKAY... AND I'LL OVERRULE IT.
LET'S GET GOING.


PLEASE STATE YOUR FULL NAME.
"RICHARD EVANS."
"MR. EVANS, HOW OLD ARE YOU?"
TWENTY-TWO.
"AND ARE YOU SOMETIMES KNOWN BY ANOTHER NAME? A NICKNAME OR TAG?"
THEY CALL ME BOBO.
NOW, MR. EVANS... DO YOU KNOW THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SEATED AT THESE TWO TABLES... MR. STEVE HARMON AND MR. JAMES KING?
YES.
AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THEM?
I BEEN KNOWING KING ALL MY LIFE.
I JUST MET THE OTHER GUY BEFORE THE ROBBERY WENT DOWN.
"I NOTICE YOU'RE WEARING A PRISON UNIFORM. WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATUS?"
I'M DOING A HEAVY AND A HALF UP AT GREEN HAVEN.


WILL YOU EXPLAIN TO THE JURY WHAT A HEAVY AND A HALF IS?
"SEVEN AND A HALF TO TEN YEARS."
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING TIME FOR?
SELLING DRUGS.
"AND YOU'VE BEEN ARRESTED BEFORE?"
I BEEN ARRESTED FOR... BREAKING AND ENTERING... GRAND THEFT AUTO...
AND ONE TIME FOR TAKING A CAR RADIO...
...AND ONE TIME FOR FIGHTING A GUY THAT DIED.
SO THE ARREST FOR FIGHTING A GUY THAT DIED WAS MANSLAUGHTER...
...IS THAT RIGHT?


YEAH I GOT 3 YEARS.
I THINK THE RECORD WILL SHOW YOU GOT FIVE TO TEN YEARS AND SERVED THREE.
IS THAT CORRECT?
"WHATEVER!"
MR. EVANS, CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED ON THE TWENTY-SECOND OF DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR?
"ME AND KING PLANNED OUT A GETOVER AND WE DONE IT."
"CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO THE JURY WHAT THIS PARTICULAR GETOVER WAS?"
"WE HIT A DRUGSTORE."
CAN YOU TELL ME AS MUCH AS YOU CAN ABOUT THE PLAN AND ABOUT WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?


"WE WENT OVER TO THE PLACE AND SAT DOWN ON A CAR OUTSIDE..."
"...THEN WE GOT THE SIGN FROM HIM..."
LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT MR. EVANS IS POINTING TOWARD MR. HARMON. GO ON.
OBJECTION!
SUSTAINED. IS HE IDENTIFYING HIM OR NOT?
CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE MAN FROM WHOM YOU GOT THE SIGN THAT EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT?
THAT'S HIM... SITTING NEXT TO THE WOMAN WITH THE RED HAIR.
"LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT MR. EVANS IS IDENTIFYING MR. HARMON. GO ON."
"SO WE GOT THE SIGN THAT EVERYTHING WAS COOL..."


"KING TOOK A HIT ON SOME CRANK WE HAD AND THEN WE WENT IN."
"WE STARTED A BEEF WITH THE DUDE BEHIND THE COUNTER."
"HE CAME UP WITH A CHROME AND STARTED SHOUTING AND STUFF."
"A CHROME?"
"YEAH... A GUN."
"ANYWAY... KING WAS TRYING TO GET THE GUN FROM HIM AND I WAS GOING FOR THE MONEY."
"THEN I HEARD THE GUN GO OFF."
"I LOOKED OVER AND SAW THE GUY FALLING DOWN AND KING WAS HOLDING THE CHROME."
"WE GRABBED WHAT WE WANTED AND SPLIT."
"THAT WAS IT."
"WHAT ELSE DID YOU GRAB BESIDES MONEY?"
"WE TOOK SOME CIGARETTES AND LEFT."
THEN WHAT DID YOU DO?


"THEN WE WENT DOWN TO THAT CHICKEN JOINT OVER LENOX AVENUE, ACROSS FROM THE BRIDGE."
LUNCH SPECIAL
"WE GOT SOME FRIED CHICKEN AND SOME WEDGIES AND SOME SODAS."
"WHO WAS WITH YOU AT THE TIME?"
"JUST ME AND KING."
"WHEN DID YOU FIND OUT THAT MR. NESBITT, THE DRUGSTORE OWNER, WAS DEAD?"
"THE WORD WAS IN THE STREET THAT NIGHT."
"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MONEY YOU GOT FROM THE ROBBERY?"
"LIKE I SAID... WE SPENT SOME OF IT ON FRIED CHICKEN AND WEDGIES. THEN ME AND KING SPLIT THE REST."
YOU INDICATED THAT MR. HARMON GAVE YOU THE ALL-CLEAR SIGNAL SO YOU COULD PROCEED WITH THE ROBBERY... IS THAT RIGHT?
YEAH.
AND WAS HE TO GET PART OF THE MONEY?
OBJECTION!
IF MS. PETROCELLI WANTS TO TESTIFY IN—


SUSTAINED! SUSTAINED!
LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY.
REPHRASE THE QUESTION.
WAS ANYBODY ELSE TO SHARE IN THE MONEY?
THE LITTLE PUERTO RICAN BOY WAS SUPPOSED TO GET A TASTE AND KING'S FRIEND WAS SUPPOSED TO GET A TASTE.
YOU SAID THAT YOU RECEIVED A SIGN FROM MR. HARMON.
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT THAT SIGN WAS?
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO TELL US IF THERE WAS ANYBODY IN THE DRUGSTORE.
HE DIDN'T SAY NOTHING SO WE FIGURED IT WAS ALL RIGHT.
AND YOU DEFINITELY SAW MR. HARMON COMING FROM THE DRUGSTORE...AS PLANNED?
RIGHT.



"AS FAR AS YOU KNOW... WAS THE SHOOTING OF MR. NESBITT ACCIDENTAL?"
THAT'S RIGHT, MAN. I HAD TO LIGHT HIM UP 'CAUSE HE WAS FLEXIN' MUSCLE... ...KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?
YEAH, MAN. HE WAS ONE OF THEM OLD WEST INDIAN BROTHERS.
ISLAND STRONG!
"CAN YOU TELL ME HOW IT WAS THAT YOU WERE ARRESTED?"
"I SOLD SOME CIGARETTES TO THIS GUY.... HIS NAME IS BOLDEN ...GOLDEN... SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT.
YO, MAN, HERE YA GO... AND PEEP THIS... STRAIGHT DL.
I AIN'T NO NUT.... I HEAR YA.
THANKS, MAN.... WHAT ELSE CAN YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON?
WHATEVER YOU NEED.... I AIMS TO PLEASE.
"THEN HE SOLD THEM TO A WHITE BOY AND..."
"...THEN THE WHITE BOY DROPPED A DIME ON HIM AND HE DROPPED IT ON ME."
THAT'S RIGHT... 2 CARTONS... OVER NEAR THE PARK... UH-HUH... HE'S STILL THERE...
A BIG RATTY-LOOKING DUDE.
UP AGAINST THE WALL, BIG BOY!
WHAT UP, YO!?
"ONCE IT GOT GOING IT WAS 4-1-1... 9-1-1... 7-1-1.... I GUESS THEY WAS DROPPING DIMES WITH 800 NUMBERS, TOO!
"I SAID I DIDN'T KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT BUT THEN I GOT BUSTED ON A HUMBLE AND WENT DOWN!"



CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO THE JURY HOW YOU WERE BUSTED?
"MAN... THIS LAME-LOOKING BROTHER WITH AN ATTACHÉ CASE COME UP TO ME AND SAID HE WANTED TO COP SOME ROCKS."
I HEAR I CAN GET SOME... UH... SOME CRACK FROM YOU.
STOP LOOKIN' SO NERVOUS. HOW MUCH YOU GOT?
"I WAS SO KNOCKED OUT BY THIS BOURGIE DUDE ASKING FOR CRACK THAT I SLEPT ON THE REAL DEAL."
HERE YA GO. AIN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE PUSHIN' SOME PENCILS OR SOMETHING? HA HA!
"I LAID THE ROCKS ON HIM, AND HE SLAPPED THE CUFFS ON ME."
"COPS DON'T USUALLY SHOW LAME. THAT WAS DEFINITELY NOT CORRECT."
HE CARRIED AN ATTACHÉ CASE?
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT CRAP?
MR. EVANS... YOU WERE PROMISED A DEAL FOR YOUR TESTIMONY.
CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE DEAL IS?


IF I TELL WHAT HAPPENED... THE TRUTH... THEN I CAN COP A PLEA TO A LESSER CHARGE AND PULL TEN TO FIFTEEN.
"ARE YOU TELLING THE TRUTH TODAY?"
YEAH.
"NOTHING FURTHER. YOUR WITNESS, MR. BRIGGS."



OKAY, MR. EVANS. YOU ADMIT THAT YOU WERE IN THE DRUGSTORE.
IS THAT CORRECT?
"YEAH."
YOU ALSO ADMIT THAT YOU WERE IN THE DRUGSTORE TO COMMIT A FELONY.
IS THAT CORRECT?
"YEAH."
SO YOU WERE IN A DRUGSTORE...COMMITTING A FELONY... THE FELONY IN THIS CASE BEING ROBBERY...AND DURING THE COMMISSION OF THAT FELONY A MAN WAS KILLED?
"YEAH."
SO... BY YOUR OWN ADMISSION...UNDER NEW YORK STATE LAW...YOU ARE GUILTY OF FELONY MURDER...FOR WHICH THE POSSIBLE PENALTY IS 25 YEARS TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE?
SO?
AND YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TRIED FOR THIS CRIME YET. SO IF YOU EVER WANT TO WALK THE STREETS AGAIN, YOU HAD BETTER FIND SOMEBODY TO TAKE THE WEIGHT.
ISN'T THAT CORRECT?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? AM I TRYING TO COP A PLEA?
I JUST TOLD YOU I WAS TRYING TO COP.


"AND WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE, DON'T WE? YOU'RE THE DOPE DEALER AND THIEF WHO COULD SEE A MAN KILLED AND THEN GO OVER TO A FAST FOOD PLACE AND HAVE A NICE MEAL."
GOOD GRUB.
THAT'S WHO YOU ARE, RIGHT?
I DIDN'T HAVE NOTHING TO EAT ALL DAY.
BROTHA BE HUNGRY.
SO AFTER YOU KILLED MR. NESBITT...
I DIDN'T KILL HIM.
"AS FAR AS THIS JURY KNOWS, YOU ARE THE ONLY MAN WHO ADMITS BEING IN THE DRUG-STORE WHEN MR. NESBITT WAS KILLED."
"YOU ADMITTED TO PLANNING THE ROBBERY."
THE SPOT
NESBITTS
LOOKOUT
KING
ME
"YOU ALSO ADMITTED TO TAKING THE CIGARETTES."
SMOKES
"YOU ADMITTED TO BEING THERE WHEN MR. NESBITT WAS LYING ON THE FLOOR HE HAD WORKED SO HARD FOR."
"BUT NOW YOU BLAME SOMEBODY ELSE FOR THE KILLING TO GET A BREAK FOR YOURSELF."
"ISN'T THAT RIGHT?"


I THINK KING WAS HIGH OR HE WOULDN'T HAVE SHOT THE DUDE. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SHOOT HIM.
HE'S THE CAUSE OF ME BEING IN THIS MESS.
NOT YOU? YOU DIDN'T WANT TO DO THE STICKUP?
MAN...LATER FOR YOU.
NOTHING FURTHER MS. O'BRIEN.
MR. EVANS...WHEN DID YOU HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH MR. HARMON ABOUT THIS ROBBERY?
PERHAPS COUNSEL WANTS TO APPROACH THE PODIUM.
I DIDN'T HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH HIM. HE'S KING'S FRIEND.
SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. WHAT WAS MR. HARMON SUPPOSED TO DO IF THERE WERE COPS IN THE DRUGSTORE?


"GIVE US A SIGNAL."
"AND WHAT WAS THE SIGNAL TO BE?"
"SOMETHING TO LET US KNOW THERE WERE COPS IN THERE."
"AND IF THERE WERE NO COPS IN THERE... ...WHAT WAS HE SUPPOSED TO DO?"
"I DON'T KNOW."
YOU SAID YOU PLANNED THE ROBBERY WITH MR. KING. DIDN'T HE TELL YOU?
I THOUGHT KING HAD IT HOOKED UP. HE TOLD ME HE HAD EVERYTHING STRAIGHT.
YOU TESTIFIED THAT YOU DID NOT HAVE A GUN WHEN YOU ENTERED THE DRUGSTORE, RIGHT?
"RIGHT."
HOW DID YOU KNOW... HOW DO YOU KNOW NOW... THAT THE GUN THAT WAS USED WAS NOT BROUGHT INTO THE DRUGSTORE BY WHOEVER IT WAS YOU WERE WITH?
"KING SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE NO GUN."

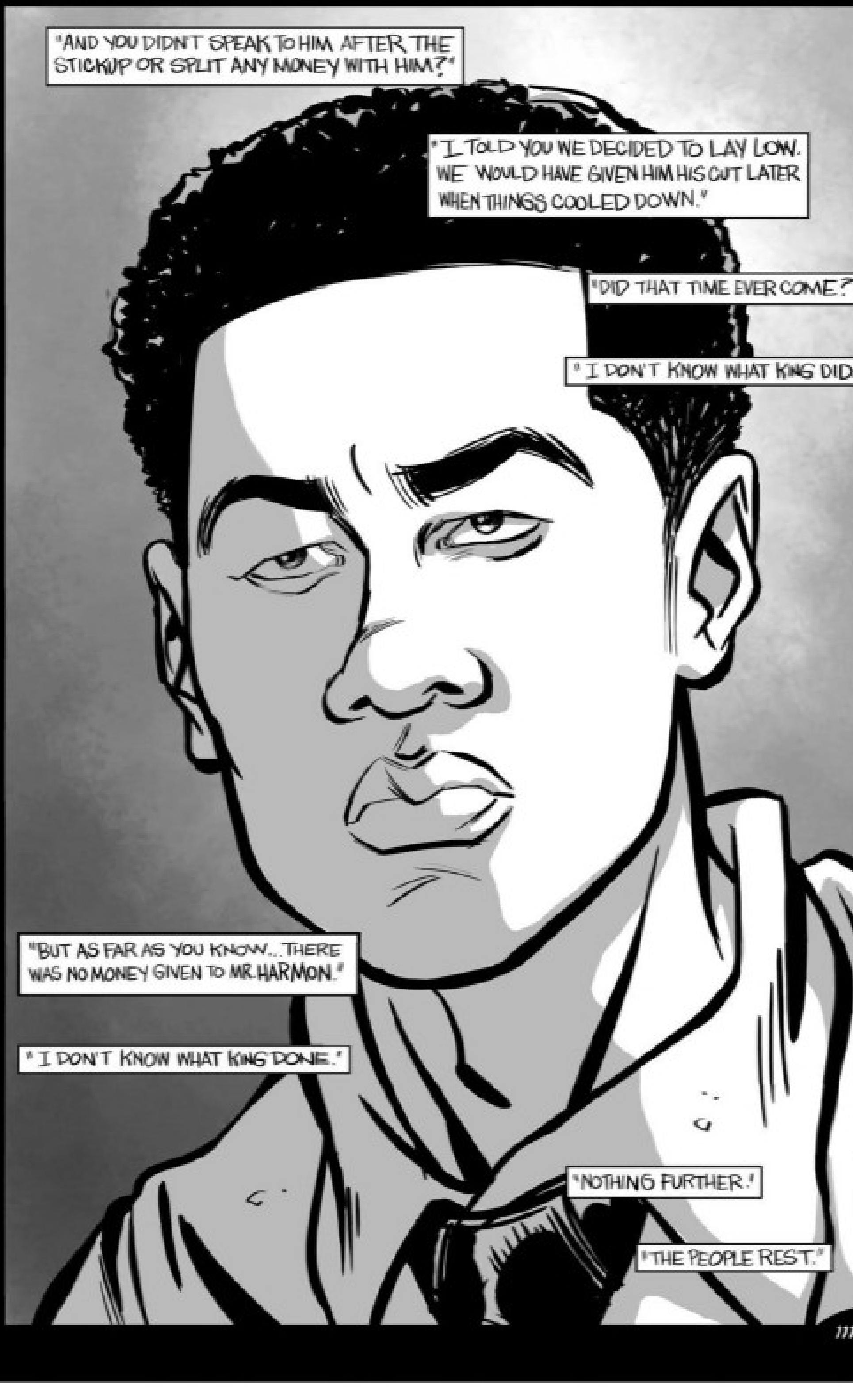


SO YOU'RE RELYING PRETTY MUCH ON WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TOLD ABOUT THIS ROBBERY.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
"CEPT WHAT I SEEN."
"AND WHAT YOU SAW WAS WHEN YOU WERE ACTUALLY INVOLVED IN THE HOLDUP?"
"THAT'S RIGHT."
DID YOU EVER TALK TO OSVALDO CRUZ?
"I SAID A FEW WORDS TO HIM."
YOU TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD BETTER PARTICIPATE IN THE CRIME OR YOU WOULD HURT HIM?
"HE WANTED IN."
BUT HE TESTIFIED THAT THE ONLY REASON HE WAS INVOLVED IN THIS STICKUP WAS THAT HE WAS AFRAID OF YOU.
I WOULDN'T BRING ANYBODY INTO A SERIOUS JAM, UNLESS THEY WANTED TO BE THERE. YOU CAN'T RELY ON NOBODY THAT DON'T WANT TO BE THERE.
WHEN YOU WERE IN THE DRUGSTORE... AND YOU HAVE ADMITTED TO BEING THERE... DID YOU SEE ANYONE ELSE IN THE STORE?
I DIDN'T SEE THE LADY.


"BUT YOU KNOW NOW THAT A LADY WAS IN THE STORE, IS THAT CORRECT?"
YEAH.
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT—FROM MR. KING?
DETECTIVE TOLD ME.
KING TOLD YOU ABOUT THE PLANS... OR WHAT HE WANTED YOU TO KNOW OF THEM.
THE POLICE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE WITNESS. ARE YOU SURE YOU WERE THERE?
"I TOLD YOU I WAS THERE."
"AS A MATTER OF FACT... YOUR DEAL DEPENDS ON YOUR ADMITTING YOU WERE THERE... DOESN'T IT, MR. EVANS?"
YEAH.
"DID YOU TALK TO OSVALDO CRUZ AFTER THE STICKUP?"
"NO."
"DID YOU EVER TALK TO MR. HARMON?"
"NO."
"HOW ABOUT THE MONEY? WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO SPLIT THE MONEY UP?"
WHEN WE FOUND OUT THE GUY WAS DEAD...
WE DECIDED TO LAY LOW.


"WHO IS THE 'WE' WHO DECIDED TO LAY LOW?"
"ME AND KING."
THANK YOU.
NOTHING FURTHER.


AHEM. PRIOR TO THE ROBBERY... JUST BEFORE THE ROBBERY... WHAT WERE YOU AND MR. KING DOING?
JUST BEFORE WE WENT IN?
YES... JUST BEFORE YOU WENT IN.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
WAITING FOR HIM TO COME OUT.
WHO ARE YOU REFERRING TO WHEN YOU SAY 'HIM'?
HIM... THAT GUY SITTING OVER THERE.
LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT MR. EVANS IS REFERRING TO STEVE HARMON.
NOTHING FURTHER.
"MS. O'BRIEN."
BUT YOU HAD NOT SPOKEN TO MR. HARMON PRIOR TO THE STICKUP?
"NAH."


"AND YOU DIDN'T SPEAK TO HIM AFTER THE STICKUP OR SPLIT ANY MONEY WITH HIM?"
"I TOLD YOU WE DECIDED TO LAY LOW. WE WOULD HAVE GIVEN HIM HIS CUT LATER WHEN THINGS COOLED DOWN."
"DID THAT TIME EVER COME?"
"I DON'T KNOW WHAT KING DID."
"BUT AS FAR AS YOU KNOW... THERE WAS NO MONEY GIVEN TO MR. HARMON."
"I DON'T KNOW WHAT KING DONE."
"NOTHING FURTHER."
"THE PEOPLE REST."


ZZZZZZZ
zzzzz
zzzzz
STAND UP!


STEVE, STAND UP!
I'LL TAKE MOTIONS THIS AFTERNOON AFTER LUNCH.
THE DEFENSE CAN START ITS CASE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
"IT'S A NICE DAY OUT. WE'LL ADJOURN AND GIVE THE JURY THE REST OF THE DAY OFF UNLESS SOMEBODY HAS AN OBJECTION."


"MS. O'BRIEN CAME TO SEE ME THIS AFTERNOON. SHE LOOKED TIRED. SHE SAID THAT BOBO'S TESTIMONY HURT US A LOT...."
"SHE HAS TO FIND A WAY TO SEPARATE ME FROM KING, BUT KING'S LAWYER WANTS TO MAKE SURE THE JURY CONNECTS US, BECAUSE I LOOK LIKE A PRETTY DECENT GUY...."
Petrocelli
King
Penitentiary
"I ASKED HER IF SHE THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO LOSE THE CASE. SHE SAID NO BUT I DON'T BELIEVE HER."
Trust
"I AM SO SCARED. MY HEART IS BEATING LIKE CRAZY AND I'M HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING. THE TROUBLE I'M IN KEEPS GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER. I'M OVERWHELMED BY IT. IT'S CRUSHING ME."
TROUBLE
GUILTY
TIME
"TOMORROW WE START OUR CASE AND I DON'T SEE WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO. LIKE EVERY OTHER PRISONER IN HERE, I TRY TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT...THAT THE JURY CAN'T FIND ME GUILTY BECAUSE OF THIS REASON OR THAT REASON."
"WE LIE TO OURSELVES HERE. MAYBE WE ARE HERE BECAUSE WE LIE TO OURSELVES."
YEAH...KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT.
We lie to Ourselves



"I THINK OF EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE LAST YEAR..."
Top 10 Good things About Steve
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
"THERE WAS NOTHING EXTRAORDINARY IN MY LIFE. NO BOLT OF LIGHTNING CAME OUT OF THE SKY. I DIDN'T SAY A MAGIC WORD AND TURN INTO SOMEBODY DIFFERENT...."
"BUT HERE I AM, MAYBE ON THE VERGE OF LOSING EVERYTHING I'VE EVER DREAMED ABOUT."
"I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THEY TAKE YOUR SHOELACES AND BELT FROM YOU WHEN YOU'RE IN JAIL."
"MS. O'BRIEN MADE ME WRITE DOWN ALL THE PEOPLE IN MY LIFE WHO I LOVE AND WHO LOVE ME. THEN I HAD TO WRITE DOWN ALL THE PEOPLE I ADMIRE."
People I admire
1. Mom
2. Dad
3. Mr. Sawicki
4. Granddad
5. Mr. Sawicki
"I WROTE DOWN MR. SAWICKI'S NAME TWICE."


THIS IS HOW IT WILL GO WHEN WE GET BACK. MR. BRIGGS WILL PRESENT KING'S DEFENSE FIRST. THEN I'LL GO. I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO SAY ANYTHING THAT MAKES KING LOOK BAD.
IF THAT HAPPENS, MR. BRIGGS WILL ATTACK BACK...AND THAT WILL LOOK BAD FOR YOU.
WE CAN USE SOME FRIENDS. YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT?
YEAH...I GUESS SO.
I WISH JERRY WAS HERE...NOT IN JAIL BUT SOMEHOW WITH ME. I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HIM.
I COULD TELL HIM ABOUT ALL THE TOMORROWS OF HIS LIFE. YES, THAT'S WHAT I WOULD SAY.
THINK ABOUT ALL THE TOMORROWS OF YOUR LIFE.
PRISONERS IN... LIGHTS OUT!
"SOMEBODY'S CRYING."


"COURT IS BACK IN SESSION. YOUR WITNESS, MR. BRIGGS."
I'D LIKE TO CALL MS. DOROTHY MOORE.
WE ESTABLISHED THE DAY IN QUESTION. WHAT TIME DO YOU REMEMBER MR. KING COMING TO YOUR HOME THAT AFTERNOON?
3:30.
ARE YOU SURE OF THE TIME?
I AM QUITE SURE, SIR.
NOTHING MORE. YOURS, MS. PETROCELLI.
"MS. MOORE... HOW OFTEN DOES MR. KING COME TO YOUR HOUSE?"
ABOUT TWICE A MONTH. HE'S MY COUSIN.
"DO YOU REMEMBER THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT?"
HE WAS JUST DROPPING BY. HE SAW A LAMP THAT HE THOUGHT I MIGHT LIKE AND HE BROUGHT IT BY.
WE TALKED ABOUT CHRISTMAS COMING UP.
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HE BOUGHT THE LAMP FOR YOU?
"YES! HE DID!"
"DO YOU REMEMBER IF HE WAS WORKING AT THE TIME? DID HE HAVE A JOB?"
I DON'T THINK SO.
AND STILL HE TOOK HIS MONEY TO BUY YOU A LAMP. YOU REMEMBER HOW MUCH THE LAMP COST?
NO. I DON'T!
BUT THAT WAS NICE OF HIM, WASN'T IT?
I THINK IT WAS.
AND YOU LIKE HIM A LOT, DON'T YOU?
I WOULDN'T LIE FOR HIM... IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.


BEFORE THIS VISIT, WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE MR. KING?
I GUESS A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THAT. I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT DATE.
"WHAT KIND OF WORK WAS HE LOOKING FOR?"
"JUST A JOB... I DON'T KNOW."
DOES HE HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE?
"I DON'T KNOW."
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT YOUR COUSIN...
DO YOU?
I KNOW I SAW HIM THAT DAY.
AND WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?
I DO DAYS WORK... BUT I WASN'T WORKING THAT WEEK BECAUSE I HAD HURT MY ANKLE. I WENT TO THE DOCTOR THAT MONDAY... AND YOU CAN CHECK THAT.


YOU DON'T HAVE TO VERIFY WHAT YOU WERE DOING, MS. MOORE. DID ANYBODY SEE MR. KING AT YOUR HOME ON THAT DAY?
"I DON'T THINK SO."
"DO YOU STILL HAVE THE LAMP? THE LAMP MR. KING SO KINDLY BOUGHT FOR YOU?"
IT BROKE.
SHOULD I TAKE THAT TO MEAN YOU NO LONGER HAVE THE LAMP?
"THEY DON'T MAKE THINGS TO LAST ANYMORE. I THINK IT WAS MADE IN KOREA OR SOMEPLACE LIKE THAT."
AGAIN... SHOULD I TAKE THAT TO MEAN THAT YOU NO LONGER HAVE THE LAMP?
I DON'T HAVE IT NOW... BUT I DID HAVE IT.
HAVE A SEAT, MISS.
YES, OF COURSE. NOTHING FURTHER.
"THE DEFENSE CALLS MR GEORGE NIPPING."


"MR. NIPPING... YOU STATE YOU HAVE KNOWN MR. KING FOR ABOUT 17 YEARS... FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. LET ME ASK YOU..."
"DO YOU KNOW IF MR. KING IS RIGHT-HANDED OR LEFT-HANDED?"
HE'S LEFT-HANDED. I KNOW THAT BECAUSE WHEN HE WAS A KID I WENT OUT AND BOUGHT HIM A GLOVE... A BASEBALL GLOVE... AND I HAD TO TAKE IT BACK BECAUSE HE WAS LEFT-HANDED.
HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN HIM TO DO ANYTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE WITH HIS RIGHT HAND?
NO... I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM USE HIS RIGHT HAND FOR ANYTHING.
What's that about?
"THANK YOU, MR. NIPPING. YOUR WITNESS, MS. PETROCELLI."
What's that about?
THE WOUND WAS ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BODY, WHICH MIGHT MEAN THAT THE SHOOTER WAS RIGHT-HANDED. IT'S A WEAK ARGUMENT.


HAVE YOU EVER SEEN MR. KING SHOOT A MAN?
NO... I HAVEN'T.
"SO WHEN HE SHOOTS A GUN... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAND HE USES."
"IS THAT RIGHT?"
"OBJECTION!"
IF MR. KING WAS STRUGGLING WITH SOMEONE AND THE GUN HAPPENED TO BE ON THE RIGHT SIDE, DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE WOULD DO?
"MR. NIPPING?"
NO... NO I DON'T.
"NOTHING FURTHER."


"STEVE! STEVE... THIS WAY."
"LISTEN UP, STEVE."
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH FILM, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE UNLIMITED ACCESS TO YOUR AUDIENCE.
IN OTHER WORDS... KEEP IT SIMPLE. YOU TELL THE STORY... YOU DON'T LOOK FOR THE CAMERA TECHNICIAN TO TELL THE STORY FOR YOU.
WHEN YOU SEE A FILMMAKER GETTING TOO FANCY... YOU CAN BET HE'S WORRIED EITHER ABOUT HIS STORY OR ABOUT HIS ABILITY TO TELL IT.
"STEVE... OVER HERE!"


"STEVE, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THE STAND...."
"LOOK AT THE JURY AND LET THE JURY LOOK AT YOU AND SAY THAT YOU'RE INNOCENT...."
"I KNOW THE JUDGE WILL TELL THE JURY NOT TO INFER ANYTHING IF YOU DON'T TAKE THE STAND...."
"I BELIEVE THAT THE JURY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU...YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY...."
"CAN YOU HANDLE IT?"


THE PROSECUTOR'S STRONGEST POINT AGAINST YOU IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU AND KING. SHE HAS BOBO ADMITTING TO BEING IN ON THE ROBBERY AND HIS LINK TO KING. YOU'VE TOLD ME YOU KNOW KING.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'VE CHOSEN THIS MAN AS AN ACQUAINTANCE, BUT IT'S GOING TO HURT YOU BIG TIME IF YOU DON'T MANAGE TO GET SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND HIM, IN THE EYES OF THE JURY.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BREAK THE LINK. HE'S SITTING THERE LOOKING SURLY. MAYBE HE'S THINKING HE'S TOUGH... I DON'T KNOW.
I DO KNOW YOU'D BETTER PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN YOURSELF AND WHATEVER BEING A TOUGH GUY REPRESENTS.
YOU NEED TO PRESENT YOURSELF AS SOMEONE THE JURORS CAN BELIEVE IN.
BRIGGS ISN'T GOING TO PUT KING ON THE STAND.
THAT HELPS YOU...BUT WHEN HE SEES US SEPARATING YOU FROM HIM... HE'S GOING TO REALIZE THAT HIS CLIENT IS IN TROUBLE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW HE WON'T TESTIFY?

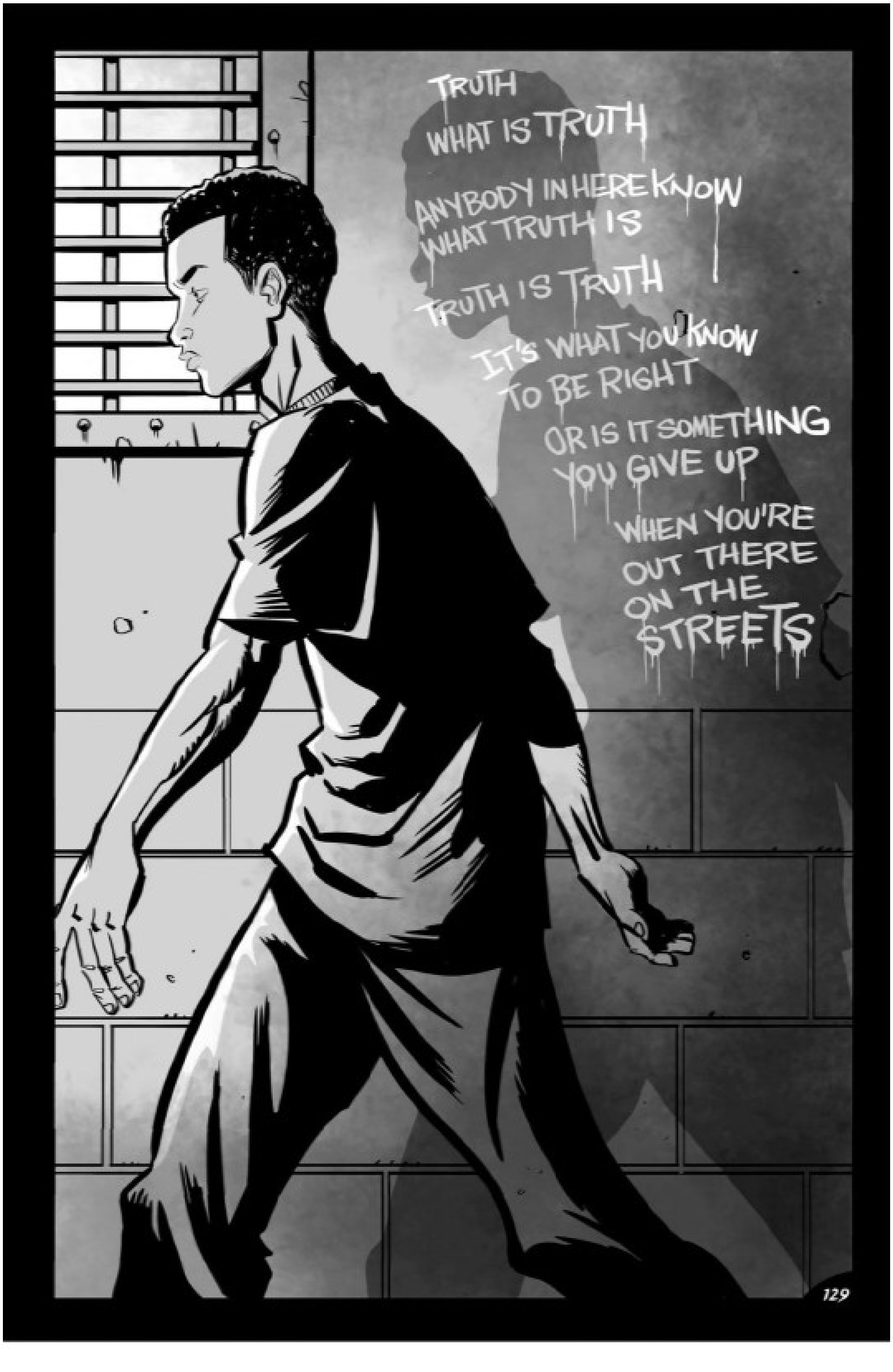


KING MADE A STATEMENT TO THE POLICE WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED. HE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW BOBO.
THE PROSECUTION CAN PROVE THAT'S A LIE.
SO IF HE TAKES THE STAND THEY CAN USE HIS OWN STATEMENTS AGAINST HIM AND HE'S COOKED.
"IF YOU DON'T TESTIFY YOU'LL JUST MAKE THE TIE BETWEEN YOU AND KING STRONGER IN THE MINDS OF THE JURY."
"I THINK YOU HAVE TO TESTIFY. AND THE WAY YOU SPEND THE REST OF YOUR YOUTH MIGHT WELL DEPEND ON HOW MUCH THE JURY BELIEVES IN YOU."
THAT WOMAN SAID THAT KING WAS WITH HER.
THAT'S RIGHT.



PETROCELLI DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER WITH A LENGTHY CROSS-EXAMINATION.
DID YOU NOTICE THAT?
SHE DISMISSED MS. MOORE WITH HER TONE OF VOICE.
A COUSIN WHO LIKES HIM TESTIFIES THAT HE WAS WITH HER.
BIG DEAL.
HIS LAWYER IS GOING TO RELY ON HIS CLOSING ARGUMENT TO WIN THE CASE...AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE EFFECTIVE UNLESS HE'S VERY, VERY LUCKY.
CASES ARE WON ON CLOSING ARGUMENTS ONLY ON TELEVISION... NOT IN A REAL COURTROOM.
SLAM!


OKAY, STEVE... NOW, STAY WITH ME.
WE'RE GOING TO PLAY A LITTLE GAME.
I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS CUP AND PLACE IT ON A TABLE. THEN I'M GOING TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS.
WHEN I LIKE THE ANSWERS YOU GIVE ME, I'LL LEAVE THE CUP FACING UP.
WHEN I DON'T LIKE THE ANSWER, I'LL TURN IT UPSIDE DOWN.
YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE ANSWER YOU GAVE ME...ALL RIGHT?
"DID YOU KNOW JAMES KING?"
"NO."
"YEAH...CASUALLY."
"WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SPOKE TO HIM BEFORE THE ROBBERY?"
"LAST SUMMER."
"I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE. I MEAN, HE'S NOT LIKE A GUY I TALK WITH A LOT."


TRUTH
WHAT IS TRUTH
ANYBODY IN HERE KNOW WHAT TRUTH IS
TRUTH IS TRUTH
IT'S WHAT YOU KNOW TO BE RIGHT
OR IS IT SOMETHING YOU GIVE UP
WHEN YOU'RE OUT THERE ON THE STREETS


I'D LIKE TO CALL...
MR. STEVE HARMON.


MR. HARMON... DID YOU ACT AS A LOOKOUT FOR THE DRUGSTORE ROBBERY OR CHECK OUT THE STORE SO THAT A ROBBERY COULD BE SAFELY COMMITTED?
NO. I DID NOT.
MR. HARMON... DID YOU DISCUSS WITH ANYONE THAT YOU WOULD ACT AS A LOOKOUT OR THAT YOU WOULD CHECK OUT THE STORE?
NO. I DID NOT.
MR. HARMON... WERE YOU IN THE DRUGSTORE OWNED BY MR. NESBITT... THE VICTIM... ON THE 22ND OF DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR?
"NO. I WAS NOT."
ARE YOU SURE IN YOUR MIND THAT YOU KNOW WHAT A LOOKOUT WOULD DO?
"YES. I AM."


"ONE LAST QUESTION. WERE YOU IN ANY WAY INVOLVED WITH THE CRIME THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING HERE? TO MAKE IT CLEAR: WERE YOU...IN ANY WAY...INVOLVED WITH THE HOLDUP AND MURDER THAT OCCURRED ON THE 22ND OF DECEMBER?"
NO. I WAS NOT.
"NOTHING FURTHER. MS. PETROCELLI."




"ONE LAST QUESTION. WERE YOU IN ANY WAY INVOLVED WITH THE CRIME THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING HERE? TO MAKE IT CLEAR: WERE YOU...IN ANY WAY...INVOLVED WITH THE HOLDUP AND MURDER THAT OCCURRED ON THE 22ND OF DECEMBER?"
NO. I WAS NOT.
"NOTHING FURTHER, MS. PETROCELLI."




MR. HARMON... DO YOU KNOW JAMES KING?
"I KNOW HIM FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD."
YOU TALK TO HIM MUCH?
ONCE IN A WHILE.
ONCE IN A WHILE. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SPOKE TO HIM BEFORE THE ROBBERY?
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY...
BUT IT WAS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.
DIDN'T YOU SPEAK TO HIM IN DECEMBER?
I DON'T THINK SO... I MIGHT HAVE.
WHICH IS IT? YOU DON'T THINK SO OR YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
BOTH... I MEAN... I MIGHT HAVE SPOKEN TO HIM... BUT WE DON'T TALK ABOUT ANYTHING IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO REMEMBER.
WHAT DO YOU TALK ABOUT?


"USUALLY I SEE HIM IN THE PLAYGROUND. MAYBE HE'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE, 'THOSE GUYS CAN'T PLAY BASKETBALL'...."
"...STUFF LIKE THAT."
"THOSE GUYS CAN'T PLAY BASKETBALL." DID YOU EVER SEE HIM PLAY BALL?
"I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING HIM PLAY BALL."
YOU HAVE TROUBLE REMEMBERING WHAT YOU'VE SEEN?
"NO... BUT I'VE SEEN A LOT OF BALL GAMES."
"I WATCH A LOT OF BALL GAMES."
ARE YOU NERVOUS?
DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES?
NO.
YOU TALK TO BOBO SOMETIMES?
OBJECTION! WE'VE BEEN REFERRING TO THE WITNESS AS MR. EVANS.
"SUSTAINED."


HAVE YOU SPOKEN TO... MR. EVANS?
I MIGHT HAVE SAID HI TO HIM. I'VE NEVER HAD A CONVERSATION WITH HIM.
YOU EVER TALK TO MR. CRUZ...
...OSVALDO CRUZ?
YES. HE'S ABOUT MY AGE. I'VE TALKED WITH OSVALDO.
"WHAT DID YOU TALK TO MR. CRUZ ABOUT?"
SAME THING, MOSTLY... ABOUT PLAYING BALL OR WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
DID YOU HEAR MR. EVANS'S TESTIMONY THAT... LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY: YOU HEARD MR. EVANS'S TESTIMONY THAT YOU CAME OUT OF THE DRUGSTORE JUST BEFORE THE ROBBERY. IS THAT RIGHT?
I HEARD THE TESTIMONY.
"AND YOU ARE SAYING IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT YOU WERE COMING OUT OF THE STORE AT THAT TIME?"


I...
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHEN THE ROBBERY HAPPENED...BUT I KNOW I WASN'T IN THE DRUG-STORE THAT DAY.
SO MR. EVANS WAS LYING?
"I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING... BUT I KNOW I WASN'T IN THE DRUGSTORE."
YOU HEARD MR. CRUZ SAY THAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO GO IN AND "CHECK THE STORE OUT" FOR COPS.
IS THAT RIGHT?
OBJECTION!
I BELIEVE THE TESTIMONY WAS THAT MR. CRUZ WAS TOLD THAT WAS THE CASE.
"DO YOU WANT THE TESTIMONY READ BACK?"


I'LL WITHDRAW THE QUESTION AS FRAMED. MR. HARMON...DO YOU REMEMBER OSVALDO CRUZ SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD YOU TO BE THE LOOKOUT?
I HEARD HIM SAY THAT.
"AND ACCORDING TO YOU, MR. CRUZ WAS LYING, TOO?"
NO... SOMEBODY COULD HAVE TOLD HIM THAT...BUT I KNOW I WASN'T THERE.
THEN HE MUST HAVE LIED.
IS THAT RIGHT?
"OBJECTION! THE PROSECUTION IS SOLICITING AN ARGUMENT."
"WITHDRAWN. MR. HARMON... YOU SAY YOU WEREN'T AT THE DRUGSTORE ANYTIME DURING THE DAY OF THE ROBBERY. PERHAPS YOU WOULD TELL US WHERE YOU WERE."
"I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHERE I WAS WHEN THE ROBBERY TOOK PLACE. MOST OF THE DAY I WAS GOING AROUND TAKING MENTAL NOTES ABOUT PLACES I WANTED TO FILM FOR A SCHOOL FILM PROJECT."
WELL...IF YOU DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHERE YOU WERE...
...CAN YOU TELL ME ANYONE WHO MIGHT KNOW WHERE YOU WERE?


I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHERE I WAS. WHEN THE DETECTIVES ASKED ME WHERE I WAS, I COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER THE DAY THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT.
THEY DIDN'T ASK ME ABOUT IT UNTIL THREE WEEKS LATER.
THEN HOW DO YOU REMEMBER... WHAT DID YOU SAY...TAKING MENTAL NOTES FOR A SCHOOL FILM PROJECT?
"I KNOW THAT BECAUSE I WAS PLANNING TO DO THE FILM OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD OVER THE HOLIDAYS."
"GETTING BACK TO MR. KING. WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A FRIEND OF HIS OR AN ACQUAINTANCE?"
NYPD
"ACQUAINTANCE."
"MR. CRUZ..."
"...FRIEND OR ACQUAINTANCE?"
"ACQUAINTANCE."
"MR. BOBO EVANS..."
"...FRIEND OR ACQUAINTANCE?"
"ACQUAINTANCE."
SO YOU'RE ACQUAINTED WITH EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THIS ROBBERY.
IS THAT—


OBJECTION!
SHE KNOWS BETTER THAN THAT. SHE KNOWS BETTER THAN THAT!
SUSTAINED. THE JURY WILL DISREGARD THE LAST QUESTION. THERE IS NO ONE WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THIS AFFAIR UNTIL THE JURY MAKES THAT DECISION.
...AND YES... MS. PETROCELLI...
...YOU DO KNOW BETTER.
NOTHING FURTHER.


TAKE DEEP BREATHS
"THE DEFENSE CALLS GEORGE SAWICKI."


MR. SAWICKI... DO YOU KNOW THE DEFENDANT SITTING AT THE TABLE?
I'VE KNOWN STEVE FOR 3 YEARS. HE'S BEEN IN MY FILM CLUB.
"CAN YOU GIVE US YOUR OPINION OF MR. HARMON'S WORK?"
I THINK HE'S AN OUT-STANDING YOUNG MAN. HE IS TALENTED, BRIGHT, AND COMPASSIONATE.
HE'S VERY MUCH INVOLVED WITH DEPICTING HIS NEIGHBORHOOD AND ENVIRONMENT IN A POSITIVE MANNER.
"DO YOU CONSIDER HIM AN HONEST YOUNG MAN?"
"ABSOLUTELY."
WHEN HE WAS TAKING MENTAL NOTES FOR A FILM... WOULD THAT BE A FILM FOR YOUR CLUB?
"YES."
NOTHING FURTHER.


YOU SAID YOU ARE A TEACHER IN MR. HARMON'S SCHOOL. DO YOU LIVE IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD?
NO, I DO NOT.
SO ALTHOUGH YOU WANT TO VOUCH FOR HIS CHARACTER...
ISN'T IT FAIR TO SAY THAT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DOES WHEN HE GOES TO HIS NEIGHBORHOOD AND YOU GO HOME TO YOURS?
NO, IT'S NOT. HIS FILM FOOTAGE SHOWS ME WHAT HE'S SEEING AND...TO A LARGE EXTENT...WHAT HE'S THINKING. AND WHAT HE SEES...THE HUMANITY OF IT...SPEAKS OF A VERY DEEP CHARACTER.
WHAT WAS HE DOING ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 22ND? DID HE SHOW YOU A FILM OF THAT DAY?
NO, HE DID NOT.
"DO YOU FEEL THAT THE ABILITY TO MAKE A FILM MEANS THAT SOMEONE IS HONEST?"
IT IS MY BELIEF THAT TO MAKE AN HONEST FILM ONE HAS TO BE AN HONEST PERSON....


"...AND I DO BELIEVE IN STEVE'S HONESTY."
"AS A MATTER OF FACT, YOU LIKE HIM QUITE A BIT, DON'T YOU?"
"YES, I DO."
"NOTHING FURTHER."
"HARMON RESTS."
"KING RESTS."


"...I BELIEVE THAT JUSTICE DEMANDS THAT YOU REJECT THE TESTIMONY OF THESE MEN... CONSIGNING THEIR STORIES TO THE AREA OF DEEP DOUBT... I BELIEVE THAT JUSTICE DEMANDS THAT YOU RETURN A VERDICT OF NOT GUILTY."
"...IT'S UP TO YOU...THE JURY...TO FIND GUILT WHERE THERE IS GUILT. IT IS ALSO UP TO YOU TO ACQUIT WHEN GUILT HAS NOT BEEN PROVEN. THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT IN THIS CASE...AS REGARDS STEVE HARMON... GUILT HAS NOT BEEN PROVEN. I AM ASKING YOU...ON BEHALF OF STEVE HARMON... AND IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE... TO CLOSELY CONSIDER ALL OF THE EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE HEARD DURING THIS LAST WEEK. IF YOU DO...I'M SURE YOU'LL RETURN A VERDICT OF NOT GUILTY... AND THAT WILL BE THE RIGHT THING TO DO...."
"...MR. HARMON WAS INVOLVED. HE MADE A MORAL DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS 'GETOVER.' HE WANTED TO 'GET PAID' LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE. HE IS AS GUILTY AS EVERYBODY ELSE... NO MATTER HOW MANY MORAL HAIRS HE CAN SPLIT. HIS PARTICIPATION MADE THE CRIME EASIER. HIS WILLINGNESS TO CHECK OUT THE STORE... NO MATTER HOW POORLY HE DID IT...WAS ONE OF THOSE CAUSATIVE FACTORS THAT RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF MR. NESBITT. NONE OF US CAN BRING BACK MR. NESBITT. NONE OF US CAN RESTORE HIM TO HIS FAMILY... BUT THE 12 OF YOU ...YOU 12 CITIZENS OF OUR STATE ...OF OUR CITY... CAN BRING A MEASURE OF JUSTICE TO HIS KILLERS, AND THAT'S ALL I ASK OF YOU...TO REACH INTO YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS AND BRING FORTH A MEASURE OF JUSTICE...."


IF YOU BELIEVE THAT MR. KING WAS A PARTICIPANT IN THE ROBBERY... WHETHER HE ACTUALLY PULLED THE TRIGGER OR NOT... YOU MUST RETURN A VERDICT OF GUILTY.
"...IF YOU BELIEVE THAT MR. HARMON DID GO INTO THE STORE WITH THE PURPOSE OF... WITHOUT REGARD TO WHO ACTUALLY PULLED THE TRIGGER..."
"...THEN YOU MUST RETURN A VERDICT OF GUILTY OF FELONY MURDER."
"THEN YOU MUST RETURN A VERDICT OF GUILTY OF FELONY MURDER."
"...THEN YOU MUST RETURN A VERDICT OF GUILTY OF FELONY MURDER."
"...THEN YOU MUST RETURN A VERDICT OF GUILTY OF FELONY MURDER."
MURDER


HOW YOU DOING? YOU SCARED?
YEAH. YOU?
NAW... AIN'T NOTHING TO IT. IF THE MAN WANTS YOU... HE GOT YOU.
AIN'T NOTHING TO IT, MAN.
HEY, WE GOT A POOL GOING. I BET YOU GUYS GET LIFE WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE.
THE GUYS ON THE NEXT BLOCK THINK YOU'RE GOING TO GET 25 TO LIFE. YOU GUYS WANT IN ON THIS?
YES OR NO?
YOU GUYS TREAT ME NICE AND I'LL PUT A WORD IN FOR YOU UP AT GREEN HAVEN.
MAYBE I CAN GET YOU A BOYFRIEND THAT'S REALLY BUILT.
"HAHAHAHA."




"LAST NIGHT I WAS AFRAID TO GO TO SLEEP. IT WAS AS IF CLOSING MY EYES WAS GOING TO CAUSE ME TO DIE."
"THERE IS NOTHING MORE FOR ME TO DO."
"THERE ARE NO MORE ARGUMENTS TO MAKE. NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY SO MANY OF THE GUYS WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH IT BEFORE...WHO HAVE BEEN AWAY TO PRISON...KEEP TALKING ABOUT APPEALS."
"THEY WANT TO CONTINUE THE ARGUMENT...AND THE SYSTEM HAS SAID THAT IT IS OVER."
"MY CASE FILLS ME. WHEN I LEFT THE COURTROOM AFTER THE JUDGE'S INSTRUCTIONS, I SAW MAMA CLINGING TO MY FATHER'S ARM. THERE WAS A LOOK OF DESPERATION ON HER FACE. FOR A MOMENT I FELT SORRY FOR HER...BUT I DON'T ANYMORE."
"THE ONLY THING I CAN THINK OF IS MY CASE. I LISTEN TO GUYS TALKING ABOUT APPEALS AND I AM ALREADY PLANNING MINE."
"EVERY WORD THAT HAS BEEN SAID IN COURT IS BURNED INTO MY BRAIN. 'STEVE HARMON MADE A MORAL DECISION,' MS. PETROCELLI SAID. I THINK ABOUT DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR. WHAT WAS THE DECISION I MADE? TO WALK DOWN THE STREETS? TO GET UP IN THE MORNING? TO TALK TO KING? WHAT DECISIONS DID I MAKE? WHAT DECISIONS DIDN'T I MAKE? BUT I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT DECISIONS...JUST MY CASE."
"...JUST MY CASE."
"NOTHING IS REAL AROUND ME EXCEPT THE PANIC. THE PANIC AND THE MOVIES THAT DANCE THROUGH MY MIND. I KEEP EDITING THE MOVIES...MAKING THE SCENE RIGHT...SHARPENING THE DIALOGUE. A 'GETOVER'? I DON'T DO 'GETOVERS.'"
"IN THE MOVIE IN MY MIND, MY CHIN IS TILTED SLIGHTLY UPWARD. I KNOW WHAT RIGHT IS...WHAT TRUTH IS. I HAVE NO DOUBTS...MORAL OR OTHERWISE."
"I PUT STRINGS IN THE BACKGROUND... CELLOS...VIOLAS...."


KING! HARMON—YOU GOT A VERDICT!
LET'S GO!
THEY GOT A VERDICT THIS MORNING. THEY'VE JUST BEEN WAITING FOR THE NESBITT FAMILY TO ARRIVE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THEY HAVE A VERDICT. I HOPE IT'S ONE WE WANT TO HEAR. NO MATTER WHAT IT IS... WE CAN CONTINUE YOUR CASE. WE CAN APPEAL. YOU OKAY?
NO.
IS EVERYBODY HERE?
"I THINK SO."
"PROSECUTION READY?"
"READY."
"DEFENSE?"
"READY."
BRING IN THE JURY.


This is the true story of Steve Harmon.
This is the story of his life and of his trial.
It was not an episode that he expected. It was not the life or activity that he thought would fill every bit of his soul or change what life meant to him.
He has transcribed the images and conversations as he remembers them.


STEVE HARMON NOT GUILTY.
A
STEVE HARMON
FILM


"IT'S BEEN 5 MONTHS SINCE THE TRIAL. JAMES KING WAS SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS TO LIFE. OSVALDO WAS ARRESTED FOR STEALING A CAR. AS FAR AS I KNOW... BOBO'S STILL IN JAIL."
"MY MOTHER DOESN'T UNDERSTAND MY FILMS."
"I HAVE BEEN TAKING MOVIES OF MYSELF."
"I TALK AND TELL THE CAMERA WHO I AM... WHAT I THINK I AM ABOUT."
"SOMETIMES I SET THE CAMERA UP IN FRONT OF A MIRROR AND FILM MYSELF AS A REFLECTION. I WEAR DIFFERENT CLOTHES AND SOMETIMES TRY TO CHANGE MY VOICE. WHATEVER I DO PLEASES MY MOTHER BECAUSE I AM HERE WITH HER AND NOT PUT AWAY IN SOME JAIL."
"AFTER THE TRIAL, MY FATHER, WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES, HELD ME CLOSE AND SAID HE WAS THANKFUL THAT I DID NOT HAVE TO GO TO JAIL. HE MOVED AWAY FROM US AND THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US SEEMED TO GROW BIGGER AND BIGGER. MY FATHER IS NO LONGER SURE OF WHO I AM. HE WONDERS WHAT ELSE HE DOESN'T KNOW."
"THAT IS WHY I TAKE THE FILMS OF MYSELF. I WANT TO KNOW WHO I AM. I WANT TO LOOK AT MYSELF A THOUSAND TIMES TO LOOK FOR ONE TRUE IMAGE. WHEN MS. O'BRIEN LOOKED AT ME... AFTER WE HAD WON THE CASE... WHAT DID SHE SEE THAT CAUSED HER TO TURN AWAY?"
"WHAT DID SHE SEE?"



WALTER DEAN MYERS was the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Monster*, the winner of the first Michael L. Printz Award; a former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature; and an inaugural NYC Literary Honoree. Myers received every single major award in the field of children's literature. He was the author of two Newbery Honor Books and six Coretta Scott King Awardees. He was the recipient of the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults and a three-time National Book Award finalist as well as the first-ever recipient of the Coretta Scott King–Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. You can learn more about him online at www.walterdeanmyers.net.

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DAWUD ANYABWILE is an Emmy Award–winning artist and the cocreator and illustrator of the groundbreaking comics series Brotherman: Dictator of Discipline, which is cocreated and written by his brother, Guy A. Sims. Dawud has also worked as a character designer on television productions such as *The Wild Thornberrys* and *Rugrats* as well as served as a production artist on a variety of music videos, commercials, and game animations.